

African Violet

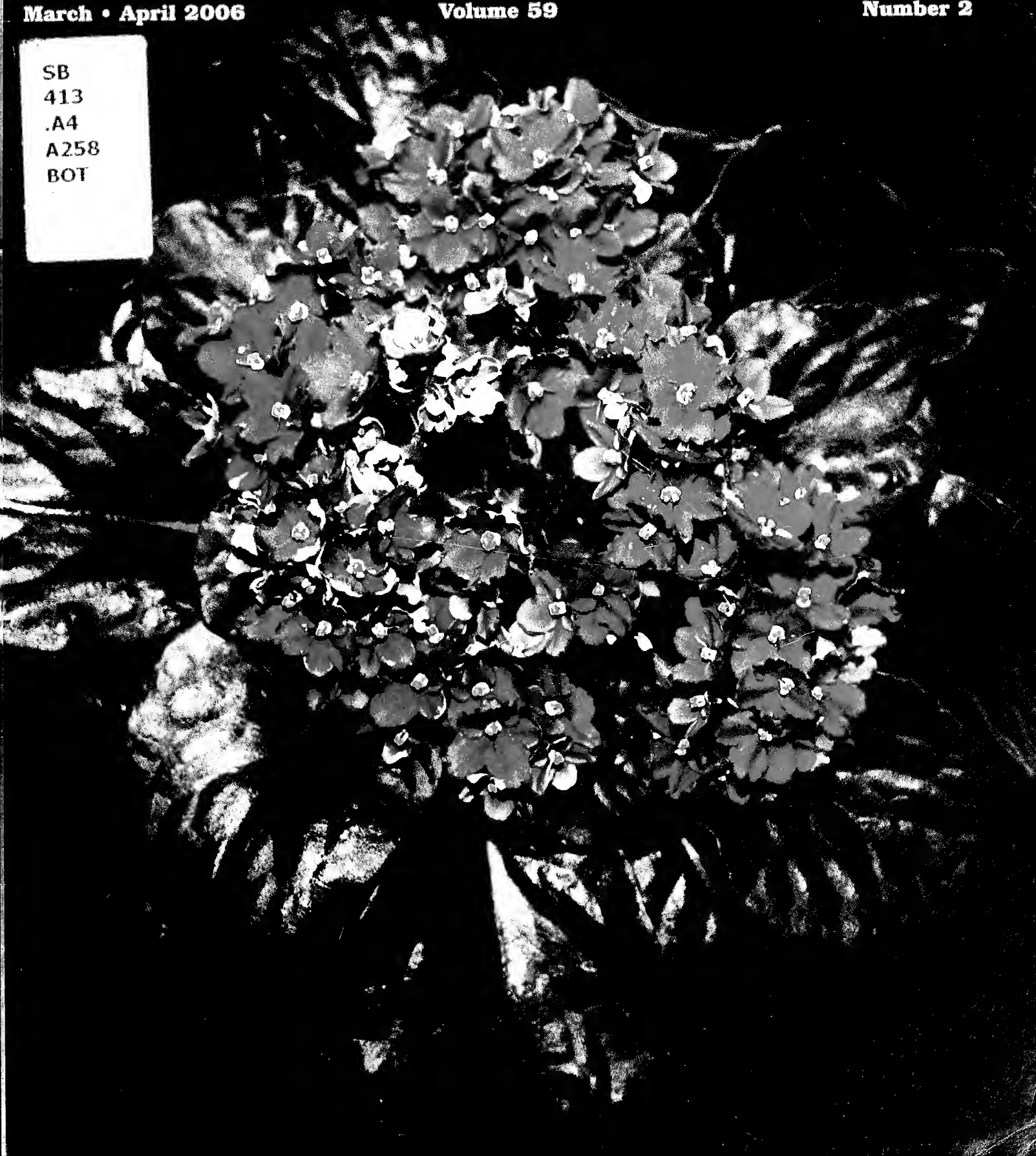
MAGAZINE

March • April 2006

Volume 59

Number 2

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AVSA Information

FOR CONDUCTING BUSINESS WITHIN YOUR SOCIETY

FOR ACCURATE SERVICE, SEND YOUR INQUIRIES TO THE CORRECT PERSON. ALWAYS INCLUDE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS.

MEMBERSHIP DUES:

Send check payable to AVSA for new or renewable membership to AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702; phone 409-839-4725 or 1-800-770-2872. Individual \$25.00, USA only; Individual, all other countries - \$27.50; Commercial USA \$37.00; Commercial International - \$38.75; Life (USA) - \$600.00. International Life \$750.00. Remit in U.S. dollars with draft or check on a USA bank. See Membership Application. Master Card/Visa accepted.

AFFILIATES: Chapter - \$27.00; Council, State, or Region - \$27.00.

MEMBERSHIP AND PROMOTION: Send ideas, offers to help, requests for assistance to Adrienne Rieck, 20331 Harding Ave., Olympia Fields, IL 60461. *E-mail* <annie97@aol.com>.

AFFILIATES: For information on Affiliates or how to organize a chapter, write Bev Promersberger, 7992 Otis Way, Pensacola, FL 32506. *E-mail* <promers22@hotmail.com>.

AVSA OFFICE: Jenny Daugereau, Office Manager, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702, 1-800-770-AVSA; 409-839-4725; FAX 409-839-4329. Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. CST. *E-mail* <avsa@earthlink.net>

AVSA SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION: Dr. Elmer Godeny, 7004 Government St., Baton Rouge, LA 70806.

BEST VARIETIES: HONOR ROLL COMPILER Floyd Lawson, 20719 Madrona Ave., Torrance, CA 90503.

BOOSTER FUND: Send contributions to Shirley Berger, 4343 Schumacher Rd. - 196E, Sebring, FL 33872-2639.

BOYCE EDENS RESEARCH FUND: Send contributions to Marlene Buck, 17235 N. 106th Ave., Sun City, AZ 85373-1958.

BUILDING MAINTENANCE FUND: Send contributions to Susan Hapner, 35 Ridge Point Dr., Chesterfield, MO 63017.

COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES: Lynn Lombard, 790 Ridgecrest Dr., Colfax, CA 95713.

COMMERCIAL SALES & EXHIBITS: For information on convention entries or sales room, contact Kathy Bell, 9611 E. Blanding Ln., Tucson, AZ 85747. *Email* <kkbell@ag.arizona.edu>.

CONVENTION AWARDS: Jan. issue. Send suggestions or contributions for convention awards to Sue Hoffmann, 2809 Forest Hills Ct., Virginia Beach, VA 23454-1236. *Email* <avsaawards@cox.net>.

CONVENTION PROGRAM: Send special requests for workshop programs or interesting speakers to Joyce Stork, Convention Director. If interested in sponsoring a national convention in your area, contact Convention Director.

FUTURE CONVENTION DATES: Minneapolis, MN - May 28-June 4, 2006. Denver, CO - May 20-27, 2007.

CULTURE FOLDERS: (postpaid): 100 to 400 - \$10.50 per 100; 500 to 900 - \$9.25 per 100; 1000 and over - \$7.00 per 100.

SHORT VERSION OF CULTURE FOLDER: (postpaid): 500 to 1,000 \$23.00 per 500; 1,500 and up \$21.00 per 500.

JUDGE'S DUPLICATE CARD: Send self-addressed stamped envelope to Bill Foster, 3610 Gray Dr., Mesquite, TX 75150.

JUDGING SCHOOL: To register a judging school, send request to Elinor Skelton, 3910 Larchwood Rd., Falls Church, VA 22041. A registration fee of \$15 is required.

LIBRARY: Order AVSA slide programs and packets from AVSA Office, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702. List in September issue. Requests must be in writing. List top 3 choices. Allow 6 weeks for delivery. If you have ideas for a library program or slides to donate, write Tom Glembocki, 103 Downing Pl., Apex, NC 27502.

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ARTICLES BY MEMBERS, COLUMNISTS AND MEMORIALS: Send to Editor.

Please Note: Deadlines - Articles and Columnists: Jan. issue - Oct. 1; Mar. issue - Dec. 1; May issue - Feb. 1; July issue - Apr 1; Sept. issue - June 1; Nov. issue - Aug. 1.

COMING EVENTS: Send to Editor.

Coming Events Deadlines: - Jan. issue - Nov. 1; Mar. issue - Jan. 1; May issue - Mar. 1; July issue - May 1; Sept. issue - July 1; Nov. issue - Sept. 1.

ADVERTISING MANAGER: Advertising rates and information: Judith Carter, 1825 W. Lincoln St., Broken Arrow, OK 74012. *E-mail* <avmads@valomet.com>.

ADVERTISING DEADLINES: Jan./Feb. issue - Nov. 1; Mar./Apr. issue - Jan. 1; May/June issue - Mar. 1; July/Aug. issue - May 1; Sept./Oct. issue - July 1; Nov./Dec. issue - Sept. 1.

"AND THE WINNERS ARE...": Send show results to Mary Corondan, 7205 Dillon Ct., Plano, TX 75024.

BACK ISSUES: Complete your set now. Request price list of available issues from Beaumont office. Send SASE for list.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Send new address at least 30 days before it is to take effect, along with old address, to AVSA office in Beaumont.

QUESTION BOX: Ralph Robinson, P. O. Box 9, Naples, NY 14512. *E-mail* <robsviolet@aol.com> and Sue Haffner, 3015 Timmy Ave, Clovis, CA 93612-4849. *E-mail* <sueh@csufresno.edu>.

MASTER VARIETY LIST:

MVL SUPPLEMENTS: Download from AVSA website, or order from AVSA office for \$1.00. Orders in writing only. Send any correction and/or description of new cultivars with hybridizer's name to: Joe Bruns, 1220 Stratford Lane, Hanover Park, IL 60130.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS: Sent to Associate Members. Renewing members receive card on white protective cover of AVM.

OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE: AVSA Secretary, Nancy Hayes, 9 Cobblestone Rd., Bloomfield, CT 06002-3003.

PLANT REGISTRATION: Joe Bruns, 1220 Stratford Ln., Hanover Park, IL 60203-2667. *E-mail* <janice@qwip.net>.

QUESTIONS ON HYBRIDIZING: Dr. Jeff Smith, "In Search of New Violets" The Indiana Academy, Ball State University, Muncie, IN 47306. Web site: avsa.org

RESEARCH: Send suggested projects for scientific research or names of interested, qualified, potential research personnel to Dr. Jeff Smith, 3014 W. Amherst Rd., Muncie, IN 47304.

SHOW ENTRY TAGS: 100 - \$8.00 postpaid. Order from AVSA Office.

SHOW SCHEDULE APPROVER: For information on Shows, AVSA Awards, and Approving Schedules write to: Meredith Hall, P. O. Box 370, Marlin, TX 76661. *E-mail* <mhall370@earthlink.net>. **Do not send Show Schedules by E-mail - this address is for information ONLY.**

TALLY TIME: Heather Menzel, 135 N. Main St., Yardley, PA 19067. *E-mail* <hmenzel@erols.com>.

Prepay your dues for up to 3 years and receive Membership Discount:

\$25 Individual (USA) 1 Year
\$49 - 2 Years \$73 - 3 Years

\$27.50 Individual (International) 1 Year
\$53.00 - 2 Years \$79.50 - 3 Years

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African Violet

MAGAZINE

March • April

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Number 2

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COVER

Lollipopooza
Best African Violet
(Commercial)

2005 AVSA National Show
Exhibited & Hybridized by:

Kent Stork
Large Standard



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

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Every attempt is made to keep articles technically correct. Since the growing of fine African violets can be achieved in many ways, the methods and opinions expressed by writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of AVSA.

President's Message



Dear Members,

This winter has been a strange one in our area. We had snow at Thanksgiving and basically none since. As I write this, there's no snow on the ground or predicted in the near future. This warmer than normal winter has brought all new challenges to my plants. The furnace has run less than normal, so the circulation is down in my plant room. I've had to get my summer fan out to keep the air circulating, but I'm afraid that it is cooling my plants too much. I'll be glad to have more normal weather.

In response to several requests, "Paypal" is now available on our website. You can renew your memberships and buy merchandise with "Paypal" rather than sending information to the office. For those of you who have never used "Paypal," it is a secure method of payment which is very handy if you don't want to use a credit card or don't want your credit card number to be disbursed on the internet. I have used it often for purchases and like it a lot. If you wish to use it, you can sign up for it directly from our website by clicking on the pay with "Paypal" button. When you have completed your shopping, click pay with "Paypal" and you will be redirected to their site, where you can pay either with an electronic check to your checking account, or any of the major credit cards. It's fast, easy and, most importantly, secure.

The repairs to the office have not been started yet. The insurance company has been so busy that it has taken more time than we thought to get our claim processed. Once we have the check, we're hoping that the repairs will be done rapidly. Meanwhile, the temporary office space is functional, but cramped.

In this issue, you will see a proposed bylaws amendment regarding the establishment of an endowment fund for AVSA. Please give this careful consideration and be prepared to vote at the Minneapolis convention. The Executive Committee and Board of Directors want to secure the future of AVSA and hope that others do too. Anne Tinari has graciously agreed to allow us to use her name, and that of her late husband, Frank, on the fund. The Tinaris worked so hard for so many years to insure that AVSA would survive; we felt it was appropriate to honor them in this way. If you have any questions about the endowment fund, feel free to contact any of the Board members.

I'm amazed that it's almost time for convention again. The time seems to fly. I know that many of you are now in the busy season, planning for your spring shows. I hope that all your shows and sales are very successful. Be sure to encourage visitors to join your local clubs and AVSA. We need to share our love for our plants.

Happy growing,



Linda Owens
President, AVSA

Editor's Notes



Ruth Rumsey
AVM Editor
2375 North Street
Beaumont, TX 77702
Email: rrumsey@earthlink.net

Although we are still in our temporary location, and repair work has not yet begun on the AVSA office, our work for AVSA and our daily lives have gotten back to normal. One big change here is the loss of **Amy Sanders** as our office secretary. Many of you know Amy, who accompanied us to the Chicago and D.C. conventions. She left us for a job opportunity with a great future, and we wish her the best. Of course, since she lives so close, we'll still be in touch.

Amy stayed to help train our new secretary, **Katie Hall**, that friendly voice you hear when you call the office.

As you'll see from the listing on page 31, donations to cover the insurance deductible and help with the repairs caused by Hurricane Rita, are still coming in. The insurance company is taking a long time to process our claim, and even though the storm hit in the latter part of September, we are dealing with the same situation as so many others in the area.

The shortage of reliable contractors has been a problem for many, and we know that firsthand. My home is finally in good shape with just a bit of painting left to do, and my son and his family have moved in with us while their home is repaired. We had mainly wind and water damage, but they had an enormous tree fall across the length of their house.

Thanks for the nice comments about more color photos accompanying articles in this magazine. I've had some very generous folks sharing not only their articles, but photos as well.

With the new color opportunities, I'd like to show photos of members' plants. Please send me a photo or two of those outstanding African violets from your collection! I can use them in photo, slide, or digital form. If digital, please make sure that they are saved at 300 dpi (best for high quality printing) and sent through email or on a disk. I had first thought that receiving such large files would be time-consuming, but with the

wonders of computer science and a high-speed Internet connection, that isn't the case.

When taking your photos, remember, no busy backgrounds, name tags, ribbons, or happy, smiling faces.

Nancy Robitaille, one of our most generous contributors to the AVM, sent several articles for this issue. On page 28 is "Little Jewels", which highlights mini and semiminature violets. On page 51, read "Florists' *Gloxinia*, *Sinningia speciosa*", illustrated with beautiful colorful photos provided by **Mona Aman**, of Brunei Darussalam. Also, from Nancy's Canadian Hybridizers series, read about **Yvonne Lambert**, on page 36. Thanks, Nancy! It is so nice to receive original material from our members!

On page 22 is our Vintage Violets column, compiled by **Barbara Elkin**. The list of AVSA's Most Wanted continues on the following pages. This is a complete list of the vintage violets that members of AVSA are seeking. Are any of them in your collection?

I recently received sad news of the passing of one of our long-time members, and my very good friend, **David Buttram** of Independence, MO. For many years David wrote the "Commercials: A Closer Look" column. Before and during the Cincinnati convention last spring, we talked about his plans for reviving the column and future interviews that he was considering.

Within a week or two of my taking this position, I received a call from David. He introduced himself and welcomed me to the society. In the past twelve years, there have been many such phone calls, always beginning with a cheerful, "Hello, Miss Ruth," and always leaving me with a smile. David was a gentle, sweet man, with a well-developed sense of humor. He was a great storyteller; a man with a deep love for AVSA and his fellow man. How fortunate we were to have known him.



Office Update



Jenny Daugereau
AVSA Office Manager
2375 North Street
Beaumont, TX 77702
Email: avsa@earthlink.net

Happy 2006! As this is my first column this year, I do wish you all a Happy New Year. AVSA had a rough ending to 2005. Hurricane Rita turned the office upside down, and we are now starting to settle into our new temporary office. At this time, no work has been done on the office repairs. I am in constant contact with the insurance company, and with their help, we should have a settlement soon. Once work begins, it should take less than two months to finish. Because of the wide spread damage to not only the Beaumont area but the entire Gulf Coast, it is a slow process. Finding contractors to do the work has been difficult. I hope that we are back in our building before convention. That is my goal; now if I can just get every one else to cooperate, we just might make it!

A new office is not the only change we had last year – our office Secretary, Amy Sanders, is no longer with us. She was offered a wonderful job and could not pass up this great career opportunity. Although we were sad to see her go, we are happy for her. Katie Hall has taken Amy's place and is progressing well. She is a really hard worker and is doing well. If you call the office, please be sure to welcome her.

I know that with spring here, our affiliates will need Insurance Certificates for their shows. Please do not call Acadia Insurance. They underwrite the policy but will no longer issue

certificates. You will need to direct your calls to The Hartford Company (1-866-467-8730), and then use option 3. This is a toll free number so that should help. This number will put you in contact with Customer Service, and they will take the information needed for your certificate. The Hartford Company will verify that your affiliate has paid for insurance and then will issue the certificate. Make sure your insurance is paid before calling them. If you have any problems, please call the AVSA office at 1-800-770-2872.

The 2006 Convention is right around the corner. Please get your registrations in early. We have some great tours this year, and several have limited seating so sign up early. The Minnesota group is working hard to make this a great show, and I am looking forward to seeing you there. Bring your violets and join in the fun.

I want to thank all of you who have made donations to the Hurricane Rita Building Repair Fund. I have always known how caring and generous our members are, but you have really gone above and beyond the call this time. Thanks so much. Susan Hapner, Building Maintenance Fund Chairman, didn't know her volunteer position of chairman would turn into a full time job! Thanks, Susan, for all of your work. We do appreciate everything that you are doing for our society.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: SENIOR JUDGES

Meredith Hall • (254) 896-2397 • Email: mhall370@earthlink.net

Senior Judges may apply for a renewal examination between May 1 and September 1, 2006. Send request to **Meredith Hall, P.O. Box 370, Marlin, TX 76661. Include check for \$5.00, (payable to AVSA)** and proof of three blue ribbons as per AVSA Handbook, page 83 or S&J Column, AVM, Jan/Feb 2001, page 38. Allow three weeks for delivery. The completed examination must be returned before October 1, 2006 for grading. **Examinations may be received on Disk or CD using Microsoft Word if requested.**

Those Advanced Judges who meet the requirements and wish to apply for their first Senior Judge examination, send check for \$5.00 (payable to AVSA) to Mrs. Hall. Also send the following items of documentation of eligibility per AVSA Handbook.

1. List of all judging schools attended, grades, etc.
2. Signed schedules of five AVSA shows judged, (copy of signed title page with all show information is sufficient)
3. Verification of three blue ribbons earned per AVSA Handbook and S&J Column (AVM-Jan/Feb 2001)

Allow three weeks for delivery. Schedules and cards will be returned if a SASE is included with proper amount of postage. Applications postmarked after September 1, 2006 will be returned and application may be made next year.

No exams will be returned until after October 15, 2006. Please include E-mail address and you will be notified of receipt of exam, or include a self addressed postcard and it will be returned upon arrival of exam.

Tally Time 2005

Heather Menzel
135 North Main Street • Yardley, PA 19067

It is Tally Time again, a chance to see the summary of the varieties receiving the greatest number of total awards from the state and local shows during 2005. This year it is based on 78 reports from six geographical areas.

I would like to thank everyone for their 2005 entries. And for 2006, please be as specific as possible when listing Species names on your Tally Time sheets.

Total Number of Awards	Number Best in Show	Number Second Best	Variety, Hybridizer, Registration No.	Number of Collection Awards	Best Standard, Mini, SM, Trailer, or Species
STANDARDS					
17	2	2	Frozen in Time S. Sorano #9167	9	4
12	1		Harbor Blue T. Weber #6174	9	2
12	4		Picasso M. Trembly #6924	4	4
8	1		Ness' Candy Pink D. Ness #8133	6	1
8		1	Rebel's Splatter Kake R. Bann #8695	6	1
7	2		Suncoast Lavender Silk S. Williams #7239	3	2
SEMIMINIATURES					
23	2		Ness' Crinkle Blue D. Ness #8136	18	3
17	1	2	Rob's Boogie Woogie R. Robinson #8606	8	6
11			Irish Flirt S. Sorano #7577	9	2
10			Little Pro H. Pittman #6637	6	4
8	1		Ness' Satin Rose D. Ness #8144	5	2
8			Thunder Surprise S. Sanders #9024	6	2

MINIATURES

17		2	Orchard's Bumble Magnet R. Wilson #8479	3	12
8	1	2	Optimara Little Moonstone Holtkamp #7352		5
7	1	1	Texas Space Dust H. Pittman #8771	2	3
6			Optimara Rose Quartz Holtkamp #6969	4	2
6			Rob's Rinky Dink R. Robinson #8739	2	4

TRAILERS

9			Rob's Boolaroo R. Robinson #8053	2	7
8	1		Pixie Blue L. Lyon #2598		7
8		2	Rob's Lilli Pilli R. Robinson #8063	2	4
6	1		Rob's Sticky Wicket R. Robinson #6467	2	3
5		1	Cirelda P. Tracey #3620		4

SAINTPAULIA SPECIES

21			<i>Saintpaulia grandifolia</i> S7, S7a	11	10
14	1		<i>Saintpaulia ioanantha</i> S5	4	9
14			<i>Saintpaulia rupicola</i> S10b	4	10
7			<i>Saintpaulia orbicularis</i> var. <i>purpure</i> S14a	3	4

AVSA LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

As of July 1, 2005

Life Membership Dues are \$600.00

International Life Membership Dues are \$750.00

Registration Report



Joe Brun
1220 Stratford Lane
Hanover Park, IL 60133
Email: jbruns@qwip.net

Shirley Sanders – San Antonio, TX

- ***Shirl's Grape Ice** (9485) 10/14/05 (S. Sanders) Single grape sticktite pansy/white eye. **Variegated** medium green and white, ovate, pointed. **Semiminiature**
- ***Shirl's Holiday Bells** (9486) 10/14/05 (S. Sanders) Single bright pink bell/dark purple fantasy. **Variegated** dark green and white, ovate, pointed. **Miniature**
- ***Shirl's Pip Squeak** (9487) 10/14/05 (S. Sanders) Single-semidouble light pink/light purple fantasy. **Variegated** dark green and white, pointed, girl foliage. **Miniature**
- ***Shirl's Snow Cone** (9488) 10/14/05 (S. Sanders) Semidouble-double white pansy/pink blush. **Variegated** medium green and white, heart-shaped, glossy. **Semiminiature**
- ***Shirl's Touch o' Pink** (9489) 10/14/05 (S. Sanders) Single white pansy/pink tips. **Variegated** medium green and white, ovated, pointed. **Miniature**

Dixie Williams – Naperville, IL

- ***Dixie's Angel Kisses** (9490) 10/22/05 (D. Williams) Single chimera pink sticktite pansy/white stripe, blue fantasy. Medium green, plain, serrated. **Small standard**

A name reservation costs \$1.00 and is valid for two years, after which time it may be extended two years for an additional \$1.00. Registration of the plant is \$5.00 unless completed within the reservation period, in which case the balance is then \$4.00. Please make check payable to AVSA.

Meredith Hall – Marlin, TX

- ***Country Lady** (9491) 10/24/05 (M. Hall/B. Foster) Double pink two-tone frilled star/pink-red top petals. Dark green, ovate, quilted/red back. **Standard**
- ***Raging Storm** (9492) 10/24/05 (M. Hall/B. Foster) Single-semidouble blue-purple ruffled star. Dark green, ovate, quilted/red back. **Standard**
- ***San-Bar** (9493) 10/24/05 (M. Hall/B. Foster) Single-semidouble pink star/purple fantasy. Dark green, plain, glossy/red back. **Standard**
- ***Western Moon** (9494) 10/24/05 (M. Hall/B. Foster) Semidouble-double pale pink pansy/darker edge. Dark green, ovate/red back. **Standard**
- ***Western Sunrise** (9495) 10/24/05 (M. Hall/B. Foster) Semidouble pink two-tone star/darker eye, top petals. Dark green, plain, glossy, scalloped/red back. **Standard**

REGISTRATION CHANGE

The following description has been changed at the request of the hybridizer:

Shirl's Red Sky (9374) – Change from **Semiminiature** to **Miniature**.



Join Us for the Annual Affiliate Meeting!

Friday, June 2 • 8:30 a.m.



Are you tired of seeing the same educational table at your show/sale each year? Do you wish you could display something different? Change is good for your visitors but even more important for your members. If you want to get some new ideas, you will want to make sure to attend the Affiliate meeting. Do you ever notice that your visitors walk by the exhibit, maybe stop for a glance, but never seem to take the time to enjoy it? If your club wants suggestions for a clear and more attractive presentation, you will want to join us. We have a slide program, some good principles to share with you, and some themes/topics that

will make a difference. These principles and ideas can be used for any festival or activity at which you set up a display. All presidents, vice presidents, show chairmen, educational exhibit chairmen and any interested affiliate members are encouraged to attend. We hope every affiliate will have at least one representative present at the meeting.

The Affiliate meeting will again be combined with a breakfast. Whether you register for the breakfast or not, everyone is welcome. We **want your questions!** We **need your answers!** Please join us!



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Heinz's Desert Song

Exhibited by: Dale Martens

Hybridized by: H. Dornbusch

Standard

In Search of New Violets



Dr. Jeff Smith
The Indiana Academy
Ball State University
Muncie, IN 47306
Email: JSmith4@bsu.edu

Spring is a time for new life and creativity. This time of the year is also a good time to try your hand at pollinating and creating new violets. Here are a few tips for ensuring your success in pollination.

1. Use pollen from a newly open flower, preferably a single or semi-double flower type. Double flowers rarely have viable pollen as the stamens have been converted to make the extra petals.
2. The anthers or pollen sacks should be firm and dry to the touch. When split open with a razor blade or finger nail, the pollen should appear powdery. Wet or mushy anthers rarely have viable pollen and should not be used. You may wish to split open several anthers to get a sufficient supply of pollen to work with. A small sheet of dark colored paper can hold the pollen and make it visible and easier to work with.
3. The stigma of the pistil becomes receptive several days after the flower opens. Look for a wet, shiny appearance as an indicator that the stigma is ready for pollination. If the stigma is truly receptive, you should be able to see the pollen stick. If the pollen just seems to fall off, the timing may not be quite right.
4. Pollen can be transferred by several methods. Some like to use a fine tipped brush. Others use a cotton swab to hold the pollen. You can transfer the pollen by touching either brush or swab to the pollen collected on the dark colored paper. If your hands are steady, you can also touch the stigma to the inside of a split anther to transfer the pollen.
5. Pollinate several flowers on the same flower stalk. This should result in several seed pods, giving a better chance for the seed pods to survive to maturity. You may need to pollinate over a several day period as not all the flowers will be receptive at the same time.
6. High humidity often helps the seed pod set, which is one

of the reasons why it is easier to pollinate plants in the spring. If you need to raise the humidity, covering the seed parent in a humidity dome or plastic bag is usually more effective than misting. Keep the humidity high until the seed pods start to develop.

7. Label each cross, indicating the pollen parent and the date that the cross was made. It will be several months before the seeds are mature, and your memory might slip as to the identity of the pollen parent. Little jewelry tags work well for labels. Some folks like to use a strip of paper as the label and gently tape it around the base of the flower where it will be partially hidden by the foliage. As long as the same pollen parent was used for every flower on the stalk, one label may be all that is needed.

Q: *When a fantasy flower sports to a solid color, will the color be the background color or that of the fantasy spots?*

A: Sports in fantasy flowers can actually go either way. I've seen examples of sports with the background color and that of the spots, sometimes on the same plant. One hybridizer who is very interested in fantasies and their sports once commented to me that the spot color mutation was more common. With fantasy flowers, almost anything can happen.

Q: *My 'Concord' chimera has lost the purple color on the petal edges. Is this cultural or genetic? If I move the plant to a different location, will the edge color return?*

A: The mutation that produces chimeras is a change in the tissue layers in the growing part of the crown. This area is called the apical meristem and is responsible for producing the leaves and flowers. There are two cell tissue layers in the apical meristem, the epidermal tissue and the ground tissue. Flower petals are produced from both tissue layers. A chimera is produced when there is a change in the flower color gene

between the two tissue layers. The outer stripe color of a chimera flower is produced by the epidermal tissue while the center stripe color is produced by the ground tissue. As long as the apical meristem keeps the tissues in the correct order, you get the striped flowers of a chimera.

Your plant's color change might be cultural, but what I suspect has happened is that the epidermal tissue has mutated and lost the ability to make the purple pigment. Genetically, it is now the same as the ground tissue. Since both tissues are producing white stripes, the entire flower looks white.

I currently have a plant of 'The Alps' where one side of the plant is producing solid white flowers instead of the white edge and blue center strip of the chimera. Here, the ground tissue has either mutated to white, or some epidermal tissue has replaced part of the ground tissue. An interesting side effect is that the leaf color has also changed. The leaves where the chimera is still normal are dark green. Leaves under the white flowers have mixed areas of dark green and light green. I suspect that the dark green color is due to cells of the ground tissue that gives blue center stripes. The light green color is probably due to cells of the ground tissue that are giving white stripes. Chimeras are certainly interesting plants, but the usual tissue layering that creates them is unstable, and it is not unusual for them to revert to solid flower colors.

Q: A picture was on the internet recently of a yellow flowered *Streptocarpus*. Since these plants are

closely related to African violets, would the yellow pigment be the same in both?

A: Without testing and comparing the yellow pigment from both, it would be impossible to say that they are the same. However, I would agree with you that because of the close relationship between the two plants, the odds are highly favorable for the pigment to be either the same or very nearly the same. The flower color pigments are the same in both plants for pink and blue, and the flower color genetics are nearly identical. It wouldn't be unrealistic to suspect that the yellow pigment would also be the same.

Q: Is there a quick and easy way to tell whether African violet seed is fertile if the seed pod dries up prematurely?

A: The only sure way to know would be to plant the contents of the seed pods and see whether you get any seedlings. If you don't want to waste your time planting potentially non-viable seed, take a close look at the seed. Viable seeds are usually black and shiny. A non-viable seed is usually gray and dull in appearance. A hand lens will help make these differences more apparent. Another way is to place the seed on a piece of paper and gently tilt the paper. The viable seed will roll across the paper while non-viable seeds either do not move at all or will scoot across without rolling. The risk in using these two methods is that there "might" be a single viable seed or two in the group that would be missed and only found if you planted the seed and watched what happened.



AFFILIATE UPDATE

Bev Promersberger - Affiliate Committee
7992 Otis Way • Pensacola, FL 32506
Promers22@hotmail.com



Do you live in Colorado, Georgia, Idaho, Maine, or North Carolina? There are growers who want to start new clubs in

these states. There is even a new club beginning for interested growers who are visually impaired. Please check details below:



Pueblo, Colorado • **Peggy Barber**
1712 Tierra Berienda, Pueblo, CO 81008
(719)544-2142
peggylovesplants@msn.com

South Central Idaho • **Dan Henningsen**
PO Box 2317, Twin Falls, ID 83303
(208)736-6049
jdhenningens@hotmail.com

AV4VIP
A National group forming for visually impaired people who want to learn more about African violets. Contact can be made in any accessible format that meets your needs since I am blind myself.

Alpharetta, Georgia • **Adrienne Miller**
Alpharetta, GA 30022
(678)366-9850
abmiller31@bellsouth.net

Seal Cove, Maine • **Pier Fisher**
Box 17, Seal Cove, ME 04674
sealcove@localnet.net

Greg Capps
104 Crest Hill Rd
East Flat Rock, NC 28726-2018
(828)696-5243
dgcnc@bellsouth.net

Rome African Violet Study Group
Catherine Carter
(706)378-4249
cathy32070@aol.com

Western North Carolina
African Violet Society • **Greg Capps**
104 Crest Hill Rd
East Flat Rock, NC 28726-2018
(828)696-5243 dgcnc@bellsouth.net



Lakeshore Silver

Best Variegated Semiminiature

2005 AVSA National Show

Exhibited by: Beverly Williams

Hybridized by: J. Brownlie



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Rob's Boogie Woogie

Exhibited by: Daphne Yaremko

Hybridized by: R. Robinson

Semiminiature



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Buckeye Leprechaun Charm

Second Best New Cultivar

2005 AVSA National Show

*Exhibited and Hybridized by: **Pat Hancock***

Question Box



Sue Haffner
3015 Timmy Ave.
Clovis, CA 93612
Email: sueh@csufresno.edu



QUESTION: *I thought I was being so darn clever: I brought home a violet from the garden shop and thought I would put in a wick right away. I used the smallest crochet hook I could find and ran a piece of acrylic yarn up through the soil and – viola! – a wicked violet. Well, now, after a few weeks, the plant doesn't look so good. What did I do wrong?*

Answer: You should have repotted the plant into a very light mix that is suitable for wick-watered plants. The violets in the garden shops are grown in an entirely different medium; one adapted for mass production at the wholesale level, and one that allows the plants to be packed and shipped without being easily dislodged from their pots. This medium, once wicked, probably has kept your plant much too wet. Repot it into a suitable mix and perhaps you can save it.

I hadn't realized what a difference the consistency of the potting mix made with regard to watering method until a few years ago when I talked to one of the original members of our local violet club. This person truly has a green thumb; not only for violets but also for every other sort of flower, both indoors and out. She had been growing beautiful African violets since they became mass marketed in this country. The notion of wicks and wicking containers was foreign to her. She would buy our sale plants, all from growers who use wick watering, and they would never thrive for her. She didn't understand it. She removed the wicks and used her usual bottom-watering method, and they still didn't do well. It was only when she repotted the plants into her own mix that she could keep them going.

The trick with the crochet hook is one that I've used, too, pulling the wick up until it appeared at the top of the soil. While this can save some time and effort, I have since wondered if it's a wise practice. Most growers recommend that the wicks be coiled around the bottom of the pot, which ensures a more even distribution of moisture.

QUESTION: *When I'm repotting violets, should I dampen the soil mix, or use it dry?*

Answer: That's a question that I've asked myself more than once, and I've done it both ways. The most successful grower in my own club uses her mix dry. She believes this pre-

Hello, violet friends. I hope you, and your plants survived the winter in fine shape and are getting ready for a new season of growth, blooms, and shows. This is the prime blooming period in our area, and my winter-repotted plants are growing like mad, reaching out and filling in the spaces between them. I have to rearrange them every week, it seems.

vents the mix from packing down too much. After inserting a wick and repotting, she puts the plant into a big saucer of water to drink up as much water as it needs. If this causes the soil level in the pot to drop a bit, she will add a bit of additional mix to top it off. I find that a dry mix is easier to work with, and it doesn't get your hands so dirty.

QUESTION: *I have a shelf of African violets in a north window in my apartment. I water once a week, from the bottom. The top of the soil ball is usually dry to the touch. Now the terra cotta pots are growing colonies of furry, white mold. What can I do about this? Will the mold affect the plants? I feel that I need to keep up the humidity around the plants, as they seem to love it.*

Answer: If what you mean is that the mold is growing on the pots, not on the soil, then I think you just need to clean the pots. Terra cotta pots are porous, and it appears that fungus spores have sprouted on them and have found conditions congenial to their growth. I doubt that these fungi endanger your plants in any way. Unpot the plants and soak the pots in hot, soapy water with some bleach in it. Some people even boil them. You might want to take the opportunity to move the plants into new pots. Violet growers do not often use terra cotta pots anymore, but if your plants are doing well, you obviously have devised a successful growing regimen. I wouldn't recommend that you change anything about it. You also mentioned that the top of the soil seems dry to the touch. We usually suggest that you water your plants such that the top of the soil feels a bit damp, like a wrung-out sponge. This dryness may be a consequence of using clay pots, which "breathe" and dry out fast. If your plants are not drooping, they're getting enough water.

QUESTION: *Why do some of my plants seem fine one day, and the next, they seem to be limp, the leaves lighter in color, and they have a different texture? No matter what I do, they linger a while and then die. Is there any remedy that works?*

Answer: Check the roots. I sometimes think we take plant

roots for granted, given that we can't see them and have to make an effort to expose them. They can tell us a lot about what trouble a plant might be having. The roots should be firm, white, and flexible. If they're brown and mushy, you have root rot. This is usually caused by over-watering, or you could have soil mealy bugs. If you detect tiny white specks that look like grains of rice and if they move when you poke at them with a pin, then you do have an infestation. For both these conditions, the best solution is to restart the plants from crowns in fresh mix. Use new, clean pots and be sure to disinfect the old pots by cleaning them thoroughly. If you've found soil mealybugs, avoid mat-watering or wick-watering using a common source of water. The bugs can climb down the root balls into the water and travel to other plants that way.

QUESTION: *I've heard of a product called Marathon™. What is it?*

Answer: This is a granular systemic pesticide proven effective against soil mealy bugs and other sucking insects. Its generic name is imidacloprid. You can find it also under such proprietary names as: Admire, Condiform, Gaucho, Premier, Premise, or Provando. I've never seen it under any of these names at my local nurseries, but there is a product called Bayer Advanced Tree & Shrub Insect Control that contains imidacloprid. Some growers I know use it for outdoor plants, but I haven't heard of anyone adapting it for violets. You could try to find Marathon™ from mail order sources.

QUESTION: *I have a friend who is always giving me starter violet plants. Should I repot them right away when I get them home? What's the current thinking on this?*

Answer: Does your friend let you know when she potted up the plants? Perhaps she notes the date on the label or pot. If they've just been potted, wait a few months before redoing it. Let the plants get accustomed to their new home. Look them over and remove any obviously damaged leaves or any 'baby' ones at the bottom of the stem. Brush off the leaves with a soft brush if they're dusty, or bathe them under lukewarm water from the faucet, holding them gently under the water. Keep the water away from the soil, or you'll wash it away. Of course, you will keep these plants isolated from your other plants until you're sure they're pest-free.

QUESTION: *I seem to be getting yellow "halos" on the margins of some of the outer leaves on my violets. What causes this?*

Answer: Yellowing of leaves indicates a lack of nitrogen. Nitrogen is called a mobile nutrient, which means that if the plant cannot obtain enough nitrogen from the soil, it will be taken from older growth to supply the growing point. Here, the growing point outranks the mature foliage. (The botanists refer to this as 'apical dominance'.) The yellow occurs from the migration of the nitrogen out of the leaf and, sadly, it cannot be replaced. The soilless mixes that many of us use for our violets do not necessarily have the nutrient holding capacity for large

plants, and this needs to be compensated for. Some growers like to use fish emulsion. A dose every couple of weeks encourages beautiful foliage and, used in combination with regular inorganic feedings, can prevent nutrient leaching from the outer leaves.

QUESTION: *Are African violet flowers edible?*

Answer: Funny, but this was discussed on the Internet a couple of years ago. Several people commented that their pets and/or toddlers had nibbled violets with no ill effects. Flowers-as-food has been a trendy subject recently. Here are some things to bear in mind: 1) Eat flowers only when you are positive they are edible; 2) Just because it is served with food does not mean that a flower is edible; 3) Eat only flowers that have been grown organically; 4) Do not eat flowers from florists, nurseries or garden centers; 5) If you have hay fever, asthma, or allergies, do not eat flowers; 6) Do not eat flowers picked from the side of the road. They are contaminated from car emissions; 7) Remove pistils and stamens from flowers before eating. Eat only the petals (I think this is recommended especially for people who have pollen allergies.)

QUESTION: *My mother has an African violet and the bases of the leaves are swollen. What causes this and how can I cure the problem?*

Answer: I'm not sure what you mean by "swollen", but I don't like the sound of it. I suspect it might be some of the visible symptoms of cyclamen mite infestation. This pest causes distorted growth in the center of the plant, with the leaves and bloom stalks misshapen and twisted. The entire plant is stunted; the center leaves grayish and the blossoms withered and washed-out looking. Treating this is more trouble than the plant is worth, and your mother is better off tossing the plant and replacing it.

QUESTION: *I've heard that water drops left on African violet leaves that are in direct sun will act like magnifying glasses, burning spots on the leaves. Is this true?*

Answer: This is commonly believed. You frequently hear or read that you should never provide overhead watering for plants in the heat of the day, as water that is left on foliage or which has collected in the centers of plants will burn them. I seriously wonder if anyone has ever observed this to happen to any plants anywhere. I tend to think it's a shibboleth passed along from one garden writer to another. A few years ago, an experiment was performed in Phoenix, AZ (by the Ag Extension Office, I believe) on an afternoon when the temperature was above 110°. A variety of plants were watered overhead; not one was burned.

Now, as for violets, we don't usually put them in the full sun for any reason, and we know to blot the leaves after we wash them. This is because water standing on the leaves will turn cold, which probably has more potential for disfiguring the plant than heat does. So, no, I don't think you need to worry about little "magnifying glasses" doing harm to your plants.

Design

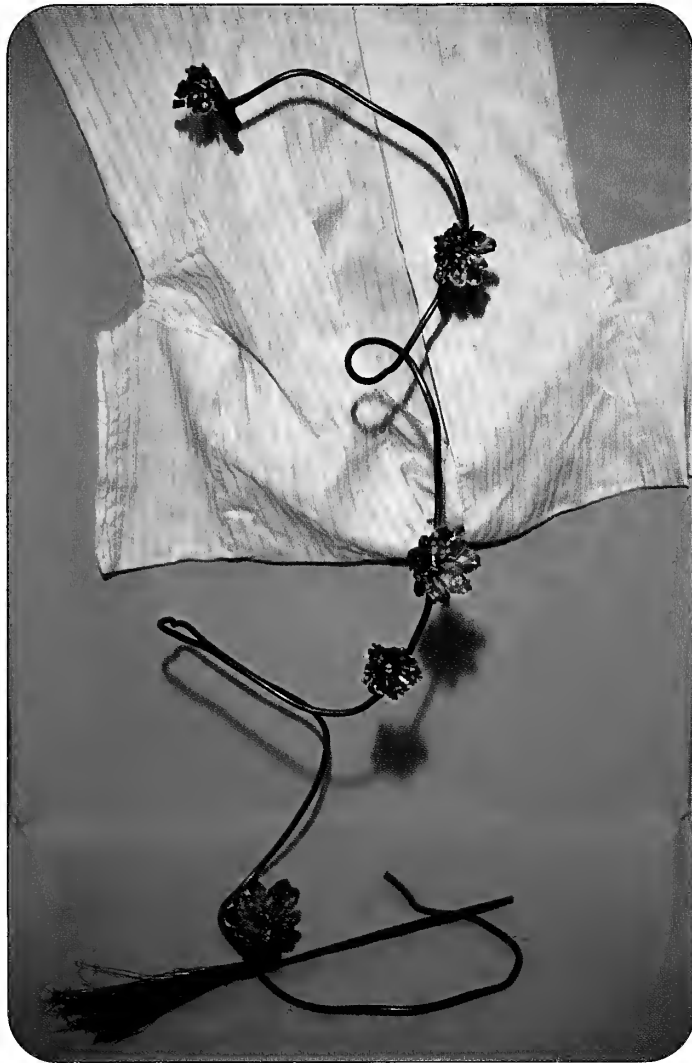


Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

“Racing at Turfway”

Designed by: Olive Ma Robinson



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

“Cincinnati Museum Center at Union Terminal”

Designed by: Mary Jo Bradley

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ABOUT HYBRIDIZING

by Sue Gardner

Some people ask me questions about when pollen and stigma are ready for hybridizing. They also ask about the time it takes for seedpods to develop and ripen. Here are some answers to these and other questions.

When is the stigma ready?

The stigma will be ready a few days after the flower opens and should look sticky. The pollen will adhere if the stigma is sticky. Some growers wait until the second flower on the peduncle starts to open before pollinating the first. Sometimes the tip of the stigma spreads when it is ready.

When is the pollen ready?

Pollen is usually best when the flower has just opened and, the anthers are swollen with pollen. When opened, the pollen should be dry and powdery. If the pollen sacs are dried out and small, it is too late.

How long will it take for the ovary to show some swelling?

We all want to see evidence that the pollination was successful. The ovary should start to swell within a few days and be obvious within two weeks. It should swell to full size in about four weeks. The pedicel remains strong if pollination is successful. If it weakens and droops, you know that a seedpod will not develop.

How long will the seedpod take to mature?

The seedpod will take four to six months to be fully mature. If it dries before four months, the seeds are usually infertile. Wait until the pod is dry and brown and slightly shrunk before harvesting. Don't leave the pod on the plant after it is dry as it may split and spill seed.

How long does it take for seeds to germinate?

This is a question that it is difficult to answer definitively. I have experienced seeds germinating within a few days. But I have also experienced some taking a few months. Fresh seed seems to germinate more quickly. So wait as long as you feel able before throwing out a pot of nongerminating seed.

When should seedlings be transplanted?

Transplant a seedling when the foliage is a few centimeters

in diameter, provided that you feel you can handle the tiny plant. I usually cut around the root-ball or use a small spatula to separate the plants. Because I use "Jiffy Pots" which are compressed peat, it is easy to separate the tiny plants while maintaining some moist peat around the roots. If you transplant when seedlings are small, they seem to grow more quickly.

How many seedlings do you get from one seedpod?

As with all seedpods in nature, the number of seedlings obtained varies greatly. It is best to sow seed sparingly so that you don't end up with a dense forest of seedlings, which are most difficult to separate. Besides, you usually don't have enough room to grow large quantities of new plants. It is often a good idea to sow half the seed, and after you have culled unwanted plants, you can sow the remaining seed. You will then have enough room to grow the second batch of plants.

Other tips

1. Pollinate several flowers on a peduncle to be sure to obtain at least one seedpod. Do this when each flower shows a ripe stigma.
2. Don't use the largest plant you own for the seed parent. You will have that plant sitting there for four to six months, disbudded and undisturbed. Use a smaller or younger one which will not take up much space.
3. Make sure you have a warm, bright place for germinating seed. Seeds do not germinate well in cold conditions.
4. Don't use a plant you want to enter in a show as the seed parent. You will not only lose points for seed pods, you may also lose the pods, accidentally of course!
5. Place a piece of colored thread around the pedicel of pollinated flower so that it is very obvious to prevent accidental removal of developing seedpod. The flower petals will die, and you may nip off the "dead" flower before realizing what you are doing without a visual marker. You may wish to attach a tag naming the pollen parent.
6. Always keep a record of the parent plants.

From the *Newsletter* of the
Early Morn AV Group, Australia



A Family Portrait



Georgene Albrecht
101 Oak Heights Drive
Oakdale, PA 15071
Email: georgena@verizon.net

This *Achimenes* 'Double White Rose' is breathtaking. We walked into the sales room at the Ohio State African Violet Convention, and it drew me directly to Lyndon Lyon's table. See the web site for availability. The snow white, large blooms really looked like roses. The foliage was a medium green that compliments the bloom.

Achimenes do not seem to be well known because they rarely make any of the spring shows. Planted in the spring, it takes three months to really put on a show. Basic culture is so easy. Plant rhizomes one-half to one-inch deep in any soil medium which has the recommended amount of water-retaining polymers, especially if they will be grown outside. They never bloom well for me under lights. Dappled sunlight is ideal for *Achimenes* and they must be pinched when they have four large leaves. As a general rule, plant one rhizome per square inch of soil surface.

A three-month, timed-released fertilizer is a must. Cover the rhizomes with one-half inch of soil, spread the fertilizer, cover it with a layer of soil and water with warm water. Never let the sun strike the fertilizer. *Achimenes* resent cool temperatures. Mine collapse when temperatures fall to 55 degrees. They also like extra "bottom" heat to grow early. Store them around sixty degrees in a dry, dark place. I put mine in a plastic bag with barely moist vermiculite and mark it well. Get them out in January and start looking for the threadlike growth. Do not remove this, just plant as directed allowing the wimpy growth to lay sideways.

In October, my baskets and pots are allowed to dry out slowly, and the entire container is placed in a large heavy-duty black bag. Mark it well. Many of our vendors sell the rhizomes, and you should think about ordering some right now for spring planting. Belisle's Violet House has an extensive collection. See her ad. If any of you know of other sources, please let me know.

OSAVS

The Ohio State African Violet Society is really special. They



Achimenes
'Double White Rose'

hosted a great convention in Cincinnati, and a wonderful state convention at Kingwood Center in Mansfield last fall. Our President, Linda Owens, comes from the great state of Ohio, too. Well, I am happy to report that my empty shelves are now filled. Between Mary Martin's plants and these conventions, I have wonderful plants growing again. They surely make one feel good. I am so glad I just tossed the sick ones and bought new varieties.

One of Mary's plants is *S.* 'Pirate's Treasure', a Sorano hybrid, which has hot pink blooms with a wide, violet-filled edge. Wow! I might have mentioned it before, but it is just a knockout. Other plants I have added lately are: Buckeye Beauty, Sparkleberry, Rob's Squeeze Toy, and Newtown Grape Suzette. You should have seen this one on the winner's table.

GROWING CHIRITA

Eleanor Hinerman wrote asking why certain chiritas bloom easily and others, though mature, will not bloom. Well, I don't think there is a clear answer to this one. Chiritas do like cooler temperatures. Mine tend to set bloom in the fall when temperatures fall at least ten degrees during the evening. Failure to bloom can also be caused by lack of phosphorus and most importantly, lack of sufficient light.

Some chiritas produce many suckers, and hers even bloomed. This seems normal, but I have noticed that a plant that produces an abundance of blooms may go into a decline after this effort. So, if one of them just stands still and doesn't grow, I take a cutting or behead it and reroot the center. It will be lost, but most are rejuvenated.

Do not root them in sphagnum moss. Instead, root them in vermiculite or perlite. Moss stays too moist for too long.

Most of the new varieties recently added to my collection come from Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses. They are *Chirita fimbrispala* 'Silver Surfer', USBRGH 9003, 'Moonlight', and *longgangensis*.

Boyce Edens Research Fund

Marlene J. Buck • 17235 N. 106th Avenue • Sun City, AZ 85373-1958

Donations received from October 1, 2005 – November 30, 2005

Spring Branch AV Club, Houston, TX	\$10.00	South Coast AVS, Torrance, CA.	\$25.00
Windsor AVS, Windsor, CT	25.00	<i>In memory of Everdina Inpijn</i>	
First AVS, Denton, TX	25.00	The African Violet Council of Southern California	10.00
<i>In memory of Mary Stallings</i>		<i>In memory of Nona Finn</i>	
Sheridan AV Club, Sheridan, WY	25.00	The African Violet Council of Southern California	10.00
<i>In memory of Betty Lou Watenpugh, founding member of</i>		<i>In memory of Ruth Jo McCoy</i>	
<i>our club celebrating 50 years in 2004.</i>		George R. Stewart, Universal City, TX.	5.00
Mrs. Betty L. Kaldenberg, Des Moines, IA	10.00	Tustana AVS, Corona del Mar, CA.	25.00
Mary A. Hazey, Bridgeport, WV	5.00	<i>In loving memory of Everdina Inpijn</i>	
Brenda M. Brasfield, Olive Branch, MS.	10.00	Tustana AVS, Corona Del Mar, CA	10.00
Gail Podany, Minnetonka, MN	10.00	<i>In loving memory of Toni Breden</i>	
South Coast AVS, Torrance, CA.	25.00	Jinean Schofield, Bloomington, MN.	10.00
<i>In memory of Toni Breden</i>		Total	\$240.00

AVSA Booster Fund

Shirley Berger • 4343 Schumacher Rd-196E • Sebring, FL 33872-2639

Contributions: October 1, 2005 – November 30, 2005

Windsor AVS, Windsor, CT	\$ 25.00	Shirley Berger, Sebring, FL.	\$25.00
Harriet K Morgan, Manhatten, MT.	10.00	George R. Stewart, Universal City, TX	5.00
Thelma Heinrich, Scottsdale, AZ.	5.00	Delta Gesneriad and AVS, Colfax, CA	25.00
Eloise Thompson, Blacksburg, VA	3.00	<i>In memory of Doris Weaver</i>	
Ms. Sam McKenna, Redwood City, CA	15.00	Ohio State AVS	100.00
Sarah Opie, Cornwall, England.	5.00	AVS of Pensacola, Pensacola, FL	25.00
New York State Council of AV Judges	5.00	Lincoln AVS, Fremont, NE	25.00
Lisa Haarlander, Chicago, IL.	2.00	<i>In memory of Ted Linguist</i>	
Gail Podany, Minnetonka, MN	10.00	Lincoln AVS, Fremont, NE	25.00
Toni Weidman, New Port Richey, FL	10.00	<i>In memory of Ruth Cromer</i>	
Joy Rohan, Gainesville, PL.	10.00	Total	\$330.00

**To read the AVSA Convention "Chatter", go to AVSA.org,
click on the National Convention tab,
then on "Report on the 2005 AVSA Convention"**

Donations Are Still Being Accepted For The Annual AVSA Convention Auction

To all members, affiliates, hybridizers, and commercial members – it's not too late to make violet related donations to our eighth annual luncheon auction. We really can use your help. Donations of items such as crafts, supplies or newly introduced plant material of all types or any other violet related item of a unique or desirable nature are still being sought.

If you wish to donate items, please notify me quickly. Kindly provide me with information regarding the item's description, its approximate value, and whether you are sending them on ahead or bringing it convention.

Just a reminder, you must attend the luncheon to participate in the auction.

Won't you join us at the luncheon and consider donating an item to help AVSA?

Please send notice to intent to donate to:

Edna Rourke

99 Old Stratford Road

Shelton, CT 06484

1-203-926-9716

Apapillon@aol.com

“And the winners are ...”



Mary J. Corondan
7205 Dillon Court
Plano, TX 75024

AVC OF GREATER ATLANTA, GA – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Rebel's Purple Shadows, Hearts Aglow, Rebel's Splatter Kake; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Lyon's June Bug, Porcelain Doll, Pay Dirt; Best in Show/Best Standard: Rebel's Purple Shadows; Best Semiminiature: Porcelain Doll; Best Miniature: Orchard's Wonder Twin; Best Trailer: Rob's Lilli Pilli; Horticulture Sweepstakes: **Janice Norton**. Best Gesneriad: *Chyrsothemus pulebris* 'Copper Leaf'; Best Design, Design Sweepstakes: **Laura Walker**.

AV COUNCIL OF FLORIDA, FL – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Rebel's Corabella, Buckeye Country Gal, Lucien Croteau; Best Standard: Lucien Croteau, **Nancy Kast**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Buckeye Obsession, Bud's Melanie, Harbor Blue; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Carnival Kid, Ness' Cranberry Swirl, Rob's Fuddy Duddy; Best Species: *Saintpaulia* House of Amani; Horticulture Sweepstakes: **Phyllis King**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Crinkle Blue, Irish Flirt, Dean's Bunny Blue; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Raspberry Sizzle; Best Miniature: Optimara Little Moonstone; Best Trailer: Pixie Runaround: **Christel Collier**. Best Gesneriad: *Chirita* USBRG 98-083, **Kelly Ates**. Best Design: **Mary Lou Harden**. Design Sweepstakes: **Bob Green**.

AV COUNCIL OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (in conjunction with NORTHERN CALIFORNIA), CA – Winners: Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Deano; Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Ember Lace II'; Horticulture Sweepstakes: **Leonard Re**. Best Standard: Smooch Me: **Karen Stevenson**. Best Miniature: Orchard's Wonder Twin: **Gini McCanne**. Best Trailer: Baby Brian: **Charmian Woolfe**. Best Design, Design Sweepstakes: **Leslie Cox**.

AVS OF PHILADELPHIA, PA – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Trinidad, Favorite Child, Marching Band; Best in Show/Best Standard: Optimara Trinidad; Best Gesneriad: *Smithiantha* hybrid: **Betty Branson**.

Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Boolaroo, Rob's Toorooka, Rob's Galiwinku; Best Semiminiature: Cupid's Jewel; Best Trailer: Rob's Toorooka; Horticulture Sweepstakes: **Marianne Gershon**. Best Miniature: Rob's Twinkle Pink; Best Species: *Saintpaulia confusa* (Mather collection); Best Design, Design Sweepstakes: **Judith Smith**.

BERGEN COUNTY AVS, NJ – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Pen 'n' Ink; Ness' Candy Pink, Buckeye Cherry Pink; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Crinkle Blue, Shy Blue, Little Ebony; Best in Show/Best Standard: Orchid Mist; Best Semiminiature: Shy Blue; Best Miniature: Knight Magic: **Barbara Church**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Bergen Precious, Nortex Snowkist Haven, Optimara New Mexico; Best Species: *Saintpaulia grotei*; Horticulture Sweepstakes: **Betty Curry**. Best Trailer: Champagne Pink Sport; *Aeschynanthus longicaulis*: **Lee Borey**. Best Design: **Joe Desimon**.

CAPITAL CITY AVS, CA – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Rhapsodie Cora, Double Trouble, Optimara Hawaii II; Best in Show/Best Standard: Opera's Romeo; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Inner Orbit; Horticulture Sweepstakes: **Cindi Nofziger**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: *Saintpaulia brevipilosa*, *Saintpaulia ionantha*, *Saintpaulia grandifolia* #237; Best Miniature: Ness' Angel Babe; Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia* #237: **June Fallow**. Best Trailer: Mayanka Trail; Best Design, Design Sweepstakes: **Barbara Elkin**.

LAKE SHORE AVS, IL – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Call Me Friend, Fragile Dreams, Cherries 'n' Cream: **Patti Owen**. Best in Show/Best Trailer: Yesterday's Child; Best Species: *Saintpaulia ionantha*; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Iceberg Blues': **Morgan Simmons**. Best Standard: Arctic Frost; Best Semiminiature: Viking Frost; Horticulture Sweepstakes: **Harold Appleton**. Best Miniature: Orchard's Bumble Magnet; Best Design, Design Sweepstakes: **Patricia Harms**.

MID AMERICA AVS, MO – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Missouri Pride, Simpler Times, Gillian; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Heat Wave, Rob's Sarsparilla, Rob's Cotton Ball; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Cotton Ball; Best Miniature: Cloud Puff; Horticulture Sweepstakes: **Patricia Inbody**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Smooch Me, Favorite Child, Buckeye Cranberry Sparkler; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Shadow Magic, Rob's Fuddy Duddy, Rob's Boogie Woogie; Best in Show/Best Standard: Ness' Cranberry Creme: **Lynn Canning**. Best Trailer: Pixie Blue: **Shirley Faris**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia pendula*: **Richard Faris**. Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Peppermint Brocade'; Design Sweepstakes: **Dona Stilwell**.

MID ATLANTIC AVS, VA – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ma's Pillow Talk, Alliance, Frozen in Time; Best Gesneriad: *Columnea* 'Broget Stavanger': **Olive Ma Robinson**. Best in Show/Best Standard: Miss Lily: **Marie Burns – Lyndon Lyon Greenhouse**. Best Semiminiature: Rob's Calypso Beat; Best Miniature: Rob's Squeeze Toy: **Ralph Robinson**. Best Trailer: Pixie Blue: **Marie Burns**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia ionantha*: **Bill and Kathryn Paauwe**. Best Design, Horticulture Sweepstakes, Design Sweepstakes: **Barbara Stewart**.

NUTMEG STATE AVS, CT – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ness' Viking Maiden, Frozen in Time, Ma's Silk Flower; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Snuggles, Rob's Bed Bug, Rob's Heat Wave; Best in Show/Best Standard: Ma's Silk Flower; Best Trailer: Rob's Boolaroo; Best Species: *Saintpaulia diplotricha* Punter; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Michael': **Ann Butler**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Georgia II, Rhapsodie Juliana, Rhapsodie Rose; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Sassy Sister, Snow Cherub, Teen Thunder; Best Semiminiature: Christening Gown; Best Miniature: Little Darlin'; Best Design, Horticulture Sweepstakes, Design Sweepstakes: **Edna Rourke**.

THOUSAND OAKS AVS, CA – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: The Alps, Rhapsodie Michelle II, Silverglade Jewels; Best in Show/Best Standard: The Alps; Best Miniature: Frosted Denim; Horticulture Sweepstakes: **Carroll Gealy**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Lyon's Gold Rush,

Rob's Miss Sniffles, Aca's Eloise; Best Semiminiature: Lyon's Little Sweetheart; Best Species: *Saintpaulia rupicola*: **Barbara Burde**. Best Trailer: Cirelda: **Marcia Shaver**. Best Gesneriad: *Columnea*; Best Design, Design Sweepstakes: **Leslie Cox**.

TRI STATE AV COUNCIL, NJ – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Picasso, Ma's Debutante, Apache Freedom; Best in Show/Best Standard: Picasso: **David Tooker**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Rhapsodie Mary, Optimara North Carolina II, Frozen in Time; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Magic Blue, Rob's Dust Storm, Hondo Honey; Best Trailer: Rob's Boolaroo; Horticulture Sweepstakes: **Ron Ennis**. Best Semiminiature: Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best Miniature: Jolly Disco: **Bob Kurzynski**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia* #237: **Joseph Palagonia**. Best Gesneriad: *Sinningia nordestina*, **Karyn Cichocki**. Best Design, Design Sweepstakes: **Jan Murasko**.

WANDERING AV ENTHUSIASTS SOCIETY, MO – Winners: 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: *Saintpaulia rupicola*, *Saintpaulia velutina*, *Saintpaulia pendula*; Best in Show/Best Standard: Apache Victory; Best Trailer: Yesterday's Valentine: **Sherlene Jones**. Best Gesneriad: *Chirita* 'Sweet Charity'; Best Design, Horticulture Sweepstakes, Design Sweepstakes: **Gary Dunlap**. Best Semiminiature: Rob's Mango Mongo: **William McIntosh**. Best Species: *Saintpaulia rupicola*: **James Jones**.

WISCONSIN COUNCIL OF AV CLUBS, WI – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Buckeye Country Girl; Okie Easter Bunny, Vintage Wine; Best Standard: Buckeye Country Gal; Best Design, Design Sweepstakes: **Arlene Garvens**. 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Silent Prayer, Optimara EverHarmony, Snowflake Hill: **Bonnie Henell**. Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Thunder Surprise, Boo Man, Kid Karla; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Kid Karla: **Kevin Degner**. 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Irish Flirt, Rob's Bed Bug, Hortense's Little Sunset; Best Miniature: Orchard's Bumble Magnet; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Lynn's Ruby Red': **Ebe Schreiber**. Best Trailer: Pony Ride: **Nancy Braun**. Best species: *Saintpaulia rupicola*; Horticulture Sweepstakes: **Alice Peterson**.

Coming Events Deadlines

January/February AVM - November 1
March/April AVM - January 1
May/June AVM - March 1

July/August AVM - May 1
September/October AVM - July 1
November/December AVM - September 1

All events notices must be in writing.
Submit by Email <rrumsey@earthlink.net>.
Fax: 409.839.4329 or US Postal Service: AVSA Coming Events
2375 North St., Beaumont, TX 77702

Vintage Violets



Barbara Elkin
Vintage Violets Committee
 2855 Gayle Lane
 Auburn, CA 95602-9674
Email: bjabar@earthlink.net

To be listed on the AVSA Master List of Vintage Violets, a plant must be at least ten years old. This year, I have taken the plants, introduced in 1995, both registered and non-registered, and placed them on the "Master List". I glean all the Vintage Violets out of the commercial catalogs and through inquiries from you, the readers. Most of the commercials now give the registration number and some are giving the supplement date when they were first listed. The catalogs are sent for, picked up at the National Convention, or down-loaded on line.

Now comes the easy part. If you desire a certain plant, that meets the criteria above, you send that name to me, preferably by e-mail, I then look on the "Master List". If it is available, I

then send you the name and address, or e-mail address of the person growing it. If it is then shipped, common courtesy says to refund the postage. If it is not on the list then it will be placed on the AVSA Most Wanted List. The "Wanted List" has grown significantly. 'Purple Crest' was on the Wanted List for eight years and finally showed up! So don't give up hope!

Please give your **FULL NAME** and your street address for my records as some people are not online. I am still looking for Adeline from Texas and Marilyn W. Full names please!

As you can see, the "Wanted List" has grown even more. Please read it carefully as someone out there is trying hard to find the following:

AVSA Most Wanted

Abe Lincoln	Andrea	Azure Trinket	Bewitched	Blue Parade	Buckeye Cranberry	Caravan Autumn	Cindy Darlene
Ablaze	Andy Griffiths	Baby Girl Spoon	Bing Cherry	Blue Peak	Swirl	Blaze	Cinnamon Girl
Ace of Cedar Rapids	Angelice Lace	Baby Helen	Bishop	Blue Pinwheel	Bud's Strike Me Pink	Caravan Emerald	Circus Circus
Adena	Angels Petticoats	Baby Pink	Blackberry Halo	Blue Reverie	Buffy	Ripple	Circus Clown
Adele	Anna Therese	Baby's Lace	Black Gold	Blue Rosette	Bulls Eye	Caravan Masterpiece	City Slicker
Admiral Amazon	Anne's Favorite Sport	Bagdad	Black Sabbath	Blue Satin Bow	Bunny Hop	Caravan Pageant	Clementine
Africa	Ann Malinich	Baker's Hot Lips	Black Velvet	Blue Skies	Burgundy Bliss	Care Deeply	Clackamus Surprise
Agglitter	Antique Bliss	Ballet Carla	Black Waves	Blue Velvet	Buttercup	Caribbean	Clarion
Alan Anthony	Antique Elegance	Ballet Eva	Blazing	Blue Warrior	Butterflies	Carillion	Clipper
Albert The Second	Antique Mahogany	Ballet Grace	Blizzard	Blue Wren	Button Trinket	Carnival Queen	Clipper Trail
Albino Blue Eyes	Apache Campfire	Ballet Helga	Bleuberi Sundae	Bon Jovi	Buttons and Bows	Carousel	Coca Cola
Aliane	Apache Land	Ballet Ice Palace	Blue Albino Girl	Bonnie	Cafe Au Lait	Carousel Lady	CoCo (Arndt)
Alice Blue Gown	Apache Princess	Ballet Inga	Blueberry Halo	Bonnie Lassy	Calico Kitten	Cartoon Balloon	Coconut Fluff
Alice Marie	Apple Valley	Ballet Meta	Blue Bonnet	Boyce Edens	California Cascade	Casu Small	Colonial Jubilee
Alice's Cochise	Apricot Frost	Bambino (Richter's)	Blue Bouquet	Brad Richard	California Giant	Catherine	Colonial Pink
Alice's White Xmas	Arabesque	Barbara Ann	Blue Boutonniere	Brandi Jolene	Camellia	Cat's Meow	Colonial Tumby Bay
Allen Anthony	Arpege	Bashful Beauty	Blue Buttercup	Brilliant Lady	Cameo Pink	Celestial Butterfly	Colorama
Alouette	Armadillo	Bavana	Blue Butterfly	Bryte Angel	Camouflage	Cecile Ambler	Colibre
Alys Afternoon Delight	Artic Blizzard	Beautiful Dreamer	Blue Boutonniere	Bryte Bells	Campanile	Cerise	Color Flash
Alys Clueless	Artist Dream	Beautiful Vintage	Blue Chips	Bryte Edge	Canadian Sunrise	Chiffon Boy	Color Splash
Alys Passionella	Athens	Becky's Gypsy Trail	Blue Dart	Bryte Daydreams	CandleLight	Chateaugay	Columbella
Alys Phantom	Atlantic City	Bee Lee Tee	Blue Dragon	Bryte Edge	Candy Cane	Cherokee Fire	Comanche Maid
Alys Roger Shiffort	Audrey	Bella Gitano	Blue Eyes	Bryte Glitter	Candy Hearts	Cherokee Rose	Comet Trail
Alys Victorian Tease	Aunt Clara	Belle's Spring Song	Blue Fandango	Bryte Pixie	Candy Stripe	Cherubini	Commander Spock
Amazon Pink Delite	Autumn Glow	Behneke Boy	Blue Fling	Bryte Raine	Candy Dandy	Chicopee	Conchita
Amazon Pink Luster	Autumn Halo	Bergen Strawberry	Blue Fox	Bryte Red	Candytuft Surprise	Chiffon Wasp	Confessions
America	Autumn Russet	Sherbet	Blue Frost	Bryte Tips	Cape Cod Crisscross	Chimo	Conjure
American	Ava	Bernice	Blue Heiress	Bryte Sensation	Cape Cod Raspberry	Chipper	Connie Salland
American Beauty	Avalon	Betty Little	Blue Le Fleur	Bubblin' Over	Sherbet	Chisholm Trail	Constance Hansen
Amethyst Sparks	Aztec Queen	Beverly Sills	Blue Morning Glory	Buckeye Cranberry	Cape Coral	Cinderella (Flower Pot)	Constance Hansen
Anafair	Azure Beauty	Billy "Crash" Craddock	Blue Nymph (Standard)	Sparkle	Captain James	Cinderella's Slipper	Supreme

Coon Valley	Dixie Darling	Fall River Plum	Goddess of Love	Illini Gem	Lady Hawk	Lovey Dove	My Jubilation
Copy Cat	Dixie Moonbeam	Fancy Flirt	Golly Wog	Inca Maid	Lady Luck	Lucky Duck	My Lady Sue
Coral Cascade	(Chimera)	Fancy Nights	Gorgeous Bicolor	Improved Picturesque	Lake Geneva	Lucky Stripe	My Mary Sue
Coral Radiance	Dixie Snow	Fancy Pants	Gorgeous One	Indian Girl	Laredo Lad	Lulu Belle	My Pretty Mistress
Coral Reef	Doctor Sandy	Fancy That	Granger Gardens	Indian Pow Wow	Last Snow	Luv's Reflection	My Spoon
Coral Satin	Dolly Dimples	Fantasize	Angel Lace	Indian Summer	Lasswell's Gay Ben	Luxury	Mysterium
Coral Sunset Sport	Dolphin Tears	Fantasy Double Ann	Granger Gardens April	Io	Lasswell's Gem Gem	Lyndy Lou	Nadine
Coral Tips	Dominion Rose	Fantasy Lou	Love	Irene	Lasswell's Girl Friday	Lynn	Nancy Ann
Cordarama	Dominique	Fantasy Special	Granger Gardens Blue	Intensified Pride	Lasswell's Glacier	Lyon's Kissy Face	Naomi's Afterglow
Cordelia	Donna Lee	Fantasy Starburst	Empress	Ivory Fashion	Peak	Lyon's Shock Wave	Nautical
Cornucopia	Donna Lynn	Fantasy Sunburst	Granger Gardens	Ivory Venus	Lasswell's Sweetheart	Lyon's Wild card	Navy Girl
Cosmic Tapestry	Dorisse	Fantasy Treasure	Fuchsia Bride	Jack Frost	Sue	Madison's Whisper	Nel's Whirley Bird
Cottage Rose	Dora Lee	Fantasy Wasp	Granger Gardens	Jade	Lauren Nicole	Blue	Neon Rainbow
Cotton Balls	Dorothy Gray	Fashion Frenzy	White Gold	Jalapeno	Laurinda	Magic Dragon	Ness' Blue Ribbons
Cotton Bowl	Do's Jean	Father Figure	Granger's Blue	Jantien	Lavender Blue	Magic Moment	Ness Misty Blue
Country Lilacs	Double Cherry Soda	Festival	Fashionaire	Jasmini	Lavender Elfin Girl	Magic Potion	Ness' Morning Star
Country Quilt	Double Duchess	Fire Bugg	Granger's Calais	Jazzy	Lavender Lady	Mai Tai	Ness' Pink Ribbons
Cranberry Ice	Double Mini Orchid	Fire Dance	Granger's Candyland	Jeanmarie	Lavender Love	Mammy	Ness' Sassy lady
Creekside Moonbeams	Double Orchid Girl	First Child Sport	Granger's Charl	Jeanne Cotton	Lavender Swirls	Manhattan	Ness' The Heats On
(Chimera)	Double Orchid Splendor	First Recital	Granger's Cotillion	Jeedle Jay	LeBaron	Manic Midnight	Neutron Star
Crème de Menthe	Double Pink Cameo	Fisher's Anne Marie	Granger's Eternal	Jeff's Jewel	Legacy	Manitou	Nevada Sport
Crested Jewel	Double Pink Cloud	Fisher's Miss Muffit	Snow	Jennifer	Leone Sport	Mardi Gras	Niagara's Blue
Crimson Glo	Double Seafoam	Flamingo Girl	Granger's Fashionaire	Jillian (Fredette)	Leprechaun Trail	Maria Rose	Thunder
Crimsonny	Double Take	Flashback	Granger's Festival	Jimmy Crack Corn	Levittown	Marie's Pacific Sunrise	Niagara's Celestial Star
Critic's Choice	Double Uncle Bob	Flash Dance	Granger's Normandy	Joanne Cora	Liberty Bell	Mariner Blue	Niagara's Cream of
Crown Center	Double Velvet Girl	Flash of Blue	Granger's Peppermint	Joey	Licorice Stick	Maroon Frost	Raspberry
Crown of Jewels	Double Vision	Fleur De Mais	Granger's Rio Rita	Joie de Vivre	Lilac Lassie	Martha Martha	Niagara's Cream of
Crown of Red	Double Wild Rosa	Foolin' Around	Granger's Rose Ember	Jolie Roxane	Lilac Puff	Marvin's Silver Girl	Strawberry
Crusade Trail	Dresden China	Floral Fantasy	Granger's Rosemarie	Jo's Velveteen	Lilac Time (Behneke)	Mary Gulipo	Niagara's Critic's
Crystal Rose	Dress Blues	Fox Run	Granger's Startler	Jovanny	Lilian Jarrett	Mary Lou	Choice
Curley Q	Drizzle	Foxy Lady	Granger's Sugar Frost	Josie	Lilibelle	Mary Louise	Niagara's Ebony
Daddy's Girl	Drops of Wine	Frathe's Debbie	Granger's Twilight Halo	Joy Pink	Lin	Maverick's Young Love	Cream
Dagmar	Dupont Purple	Frathe's Most	Granger's Venetian	Julie Ann	Linda's Love	May Dance	Niagara's Foxpoint
Dainty Doll	Dutchman	Precious	Lace	Julie Marie	Lilthe Lassie	Mayhem	Niagara's Indigo
Dainty Maid	Dwarf ionantha	Fredette's Blue Jean	Great Find	July Celebration	Lime Frost	McCoy's Folly	Cream
Daisy Doll	Earl and Joyce	Fredette's Elita	Great Scott	Just Beautiful	Limelight	Megan	Niagara's Intermezzo
Daisy's Delight	Easter Bonnet	Fredette's Sugar Blues	Great White Way	Kamon Star	Lime Ricky	Melly	Niagara's Miss Liz
Dallas	Easter Egg	Free Spirit	Green Blush	Kansas City Chiefs	Lime Taffy	Melodie Frances	Niagara's Native
Dallas Pride	Easter Kiss	Freeze Frame	Green Crystal	Kansas City Royals	Linda's Love	Melodie Kristen	Dancer
Dalliance	Echo Star	Fredette's Twilight	Green Glo	Karen Linda	Liszt	Mermaid Dancer	Niagara's Pink Beacon
Dancing Lights	Éclair	Fantasy	Green Horner	Karla Lou	Little Amber	Merry Christmas	Niagara's Sonata
Danseuse	Edge of Midnight	Friendship	Grenadier	Katja	Little Boy Blue	(Kramer)	Niagara's Sweetums
Daphne (High Hill)	Edna Haugh	Friiled Blue	Groovy Kinda Love	Katsuko's Pearl	Little Busy Bee	Miami Maid	Niagara's Trillium
Dark Angel	Edna R.	Friiled Orchid Rosette	Gypsy Charm	Kay Russell	Little Dee	Michele	Niagara's Unique
Dark Crystal	Edith's Toy	Fringed Charm	Half and Half	Kieko	Little Doe	Midnight Radiation	Concept
Dark Eyes	Edna's Joy	Fringed Pink Swan	Handkerchief	King Richard	Little Geneva Princess	Midnight Star	Nobouko
Dark Orbit	Eileen	Frivolous Class	Hannah	Kismet	Little Joan	Midnight Twist	Nola
Darling Darrell	Eleanor	Frosty	Hawaiian Eye	Kiss't	Little Lois	Mighty Mini	Nona Weber
Darth Vader	Elsie	Frozen Ghost	Heartland	Kiwi Brandy Snap	Little Lou	Millie Jo	Nortex's Holiday
Dates Fanfare	Elsted's Oakleaf	Fudge Marble	Heather Mist	Kiwi Candy Floss	Little Louie	Mine Alone	Haven
Dates Jubilee	Cluster	Galaxy Glow	Heavenly Halo	Kiwi Christmas Star	Little Love	Ming Rose	North Carolina Sport
Dates Masterson Wasp	El Toro Supreme	Galaxy of Stars	Heidi	Kiwi Mischieff	Little Lulu	Ming White	Nosy Bouquet
Dates Mastique	Emma Lahr	Galt Grape	Helen Boyer	Kiwi Radiance	Little Maroon	Mini Fantasy	October Seas
Dave Masterson	Emperor Wilhelm	Gay Confetti	Helen K	Kiwi Splendor	Little Miss Texas	Miss Liberty	Odyssey
Dazzling Daidrian	Esme	Gay Coquette	Helen VanPelt Wilson	Knee High	Little Rascal	Miss Wisconsin	Oh Melba
Dean's Velvet One	Esmerelda	Gay Miss	Highbrow	Ko's Maria	Little Red Wagon	Mister Brian	Old Blue Eyes
Debonaire	Eternal Snow	Gay Paree	Hiroshima	Kramer's Easterling	Little Ruddy	Mistress of Evil	(Mendoza)
Deborah's Oh My	Ethel Champion	Geane Marie	Hobnail Pink	Krisie	Little Seabird	Mis Ellie	On Edge
Deer Path	Ethel Twiford	Genesee Silhouette	Holly Dolly	Krista Lynn	Little Softie	Mohawk Trail	Ontario Sport
Deep Sea Treasure	Etna	Gehr's Forget-Me-Not	Holly Go Lightly	Kuhl's Parnassus	Lively Lana	Mollie Howell	Optimara Angelica
Deleon Pixie	Etude	Genetic Dwarf	Holly Peach	Kuhl's Pink Treasure	Lola	Monaco	Optimara Annie
Deleon Posie	Evagene	Geneva Rose	Holy Smoke	Kuhl's Roundelay	Lollipop	Moonfire	Optimara Arkansas
Designer Silk	Evelyn Johnson	Geneva Trail	Hortense's Zapata	Kuhl's Tralie Rose	Lonesome Blues	Moonlight and Roses	Optimara Compassion
Desiree	Ever Amber	George Malinich	Hot Cargo	Lacy Girl	Lorna	Moon Moths	Optimara Crater Lake
Diane	Evergreen Sadie Lady	Georgie Boy	Hot Line	Lacy Laser	Love Apple	Morea Surf	Optimara Hawaii
Diana Ross	Exotic Star	GiGi(not Rhapsodie)	Hot Touch	Lacy Red	Love Fancy	Mountain Blue Boy	Optimara Little
Dib's Thrill	Eyeful	Guilded Strawberry	Houdini (Gehr)	Lady Alura	Lovely Lace	Mountain Wildflowers	Cherokee
Dingbat	Fairy Fireworks	Glacier Point	Hseuh Blue Sport	Lady Catherine	Lovely Luck	Mount Fuji	Optimara
Dippity Do	Fairy Image	Glen Meadow	Hypercoral	Lady Clara	Lovely Treasa	Mz Frizz	Massachusetts
Disco Babe	Fairy Prince	Glitter Surprise	Iceberg (Hammond?)	Lady Constant	Love Song	My Darling	Optimara North
Disco Dancing Sport	Faith	Glow Baby	Illini Deb	Lady Corinne	Love Stripes	My Desire	Dakota

Optimara Oregon	Popsicle	Rainbow's Malahini	Ribbons n' Lace	Sail Away	Skagit Small Creation	Sunnyvale Trail	Victorian Fantasy
Optimara Vermont	Preferred Stock	Rainbow's Marblehead	Richter's Pearly Shells	Sailor Girl	Skagit Small	Sunset Australis	Victorian Jewels
Optimara Yellowstone	Pretty in Blue	Rainbow's Miss	Rippled Romance	Sailor's Delight	Dimensions	Supreme Splendor	Vigor Lou
Orana	Pretty Please	Gladys	Risqué	Sailor's Dream	Skagit Small Dividend	Supreme Waves	Violets N' Gold
Orchid Beauty	Princess Leia	Rainbow's Monet	Rob's Bedazzled	Sailor's Sunset	Skagit Small Favorite	Supreme Willie	Viola Tucker
Orchid Ripples	Priscilla	Rainbow's Mood	Rob's Blue Devil	Sanae	Skagit Small Feature	Susanny	Violet Dawson
Oui Do	Puerto Vallarta	Fantasy	Rob's Blue Kazoo	Sansoucy	Skagit Small Fry	Susie's Delight	Viva
Oui Love	Pure Innocence	Rainbow's Moon	Rob's Blue Moon	Sapporo	Skagit Small Illusion	Swan Lake	Vulcan's Treasure
Oui Yvonne	Purple Enchantment	Fantasy	Rob's Blueberry	Satellite	Skagit Small	Sweet Caroline	Waltztime
Our Maid Marion	Purple Nautilus	Rainbow's Peewee	Patches	Scarlet Macaw	Impressions	Sweet Cheeks	Wanderlust
Ovation	Purple Pinwheel	Charm	Rob's Briar Patch	Scooby Do	Skagit Small Miracle	Sweet Honesty	Way Out
Pagan Fire	Purple Prince	Rainbow's Peewee	Rob's Bunny Wabbit	Sea Grape	Skagit Small Package	Sweet Lady	Wedgwood
Painted Girl	Purple Rocket	Sean	Rob's Candy Apple	Sea Gull	Skagit Small Tribute	Sweet Mary	Wee Mischievous
Pam's Potpourri	Purple Star	Rainbow's Peewee	Rob's Chimney Sweep	Sea Queen	Skagit Small Wonder	Sweet Obsession	Wee Stevie
Pansy Trail	Push Over	Snowjob	Rob's Clown Around	Sensational	Skagit Sweet Jenny	Sweet Paula	Westdale Purple
Paragon	Pussycat	Rainbow's Peony	Rob's Cookie Crumble	Shannon Renee	Skagit Tiny Fire	Sweet Sugar	Mountain
Parisienne Sport	Pyewacket	Frost	Rob's Crazy Quilt	Shasta	Skagit Tiny Miss	Swiftly Lace	What Now
Park Avenue	Quiet Confession	Rainbow's Pink Fox	Rob's Double	Sherry Love	Skagit Tiny Trails	Sybil	Wheels of Fortune
Park Central Disco	Quiet Enough	Rainbow's Platinum	Whammy	Sheryl's Renee	Skagit Toy Asset	Symmetry in Blue	Whirlaway
Patriot	Quiet Laughter	Gold	Rob's Ember Glow	Show Magic	Skagit Toy Whitecap	Taffy Pull	Whirlaway Sport
Party Star	Quiet Melody	Rainbow's Raphael	Rob's Fateful Twist	Show Off	Skagit Toy Wonder	Tangier	Whisper Valley
Paula Sophia	Quiet Reflection	Rainbow's Red Gold	Rob's Fe Fi	Show Stopper	Skagit Wee Babe	Targeteer	White Bloomin' Fool
Paul Bunyon	Quiet Storm	Rainbow's Rembrandt	Rob's Firebrand	Sierra Skies	Skagit Wee Minx	Tamara's Balgownie	White Crusader
Paul's Pizzazz	Quite Foxy	Rainbow's Renoir	Rob's Half Moon	Silk Reflections	Skagit Wee Mischievous	Tarjar's Bulldog	White Delaware
Peach Frost	Radiant Star	Rainbow's Showboat	Rob's Hocus Crocus	Silver Anniversary	Skagit Wee Nymph	Tarjar's Don Goodwin	White Girl
Peach Jubilee	Rag Doll	Rainbow's Stained	Rob's Ink Storm	Silver Champion	Sketch Artist	Tassy	White Pride Supreme
Peach Ruffles	Rainbow's Adrianna	Glass	Rob's Little Josephine	Silver Crest	Skybird	Teddy bear	White Whisper
Peak of Pink	Rainbow's Bantam	Rainbow's Starburst	Rob's Little Schmoosie	Silver Flute	Sky Magic	Teen Princess	Windfall
Peek A Boo	Bliss	Rainbow's Starttrekk	Rob's Megan Lynn	Silver Girl	Snow Drops (Elkin)	Teen Wonder	Winebarry
Peepers	Rainbow's Bantam	Rainbow's Supersweet	Rob's Midnite Magic	Silver Token	Snow Flake	Tennessee Apple	Wine and Roses
Peggy Staat	Neon Glo	Rainbow's Universe	Rob's Mischievous	Singing Surf	Snow Flurie (Arndt)	Blossom	Winter Olympic
Pennsylvania	Rainbow's Blueberry	Rainbow's Van Gogh	Rob's Miss Priss	Sixpence	Snow Owl	Terrace Garden	Wizard of Oz
Peppermint Candy	Splash	Rainbow's Whiteout	Rob's Moon Critter	Skagit Ambassador	Snow Queen	Tete a Tete	Wonder Surprise
Peppermint Fling	Rainbow's British	Ramblin' Rascal	Rob's Mountain Ash	Skagit Baby Jewel	Snow White Trail	Texas Daydream	Worth It
Peppermint Fog	Sterling	Rare Beauty	Rob's Oopsie Daisy	Skagit Baby Joy	Sonoma Downing's	Texas Rainbow	Wrangler's Campfire
Peppermint Frost	Rainbow's California	Raspberry Charm	Rob's Orchid Eclipse	Skagit Blue Babe	Delight	Thanks Alyce	Wrangler's County
Peppermint Lace	Rainbow's Cezanne	Stripe	Rob's Pal Paul	Skagit Burgundy	So Rosy	That's Ron	Fair
Peppermint Lou	Rainbow's Christmas	Raspberry Frills	Rob's Puddle hopper	Skagit Cascade Trails	Soul Music	The Bride	Wrangler's Double
Persian Treasure	Ribbons	Rainbows Fuji Gold	Rob's Quixotic Lad	Skagit dear Jodi	Southern Comfort	Thelma Usinger	Pleasure
Peter Pan	Rainbow's Crystal	Rainbows Showboat	Rob's Simply Susan	Skagit Lil' Beloved	Southern Daydream	The Parson	Wrangler's Lady Lee
Petticoat Lane	Cathedral	Raspberry Glo Stripe	Rob's Sweet'Pea	Skagit Lil' Bonus	Spangles	The Parson's Little	Wrangler's Lady Vallin
Pigmy or Pygmy	Rainbow's Dark Storm	Raspberry Sundae	Rob's Taffy Pull	Skagit Lil' Camelot	Special Effects	Pammy	Wrangler's Lavender
Picturesque	Rainbow's DaVinci	Ravenscrest	Rob's Violet Sky	Skagit Lil' Devil	Spiced Peach	The Parson's Ruffles	Lasso
Pilgrim Maid	Rainbow's Dragonfyre	Ravishing Ruffles	Rob's Whatsit	Skagit Lil' Doll	Spiro Agnew	The Parson's Wife	Wrangler's Moon
Pima Stars	Rainbow's El Greco	Ray of Hope	Rob's Whimsical	Skagit Lil' Dream	Spring Fancy	Tidewater's Sweetheart	Dance
Pink Beauty	Rainbow's Emerald	Razzle Dazzle	Rob's Whoopie	Skagit Lil' Dumplin'	Spring Kiss	Tie Dyed (Dates)	Wrangler's Moonshine
Pink Bottonaire	Frost (Forest?)	Rebecca Jane	Rob's Willie Winkle	Skagit Lil' Gem	Spirit North	Tiffany	Wrangler's Pardner
Pink Dresden	Rainbow's Enchanted	Rebel's Binky	Robyn Lynn	Skagit Lil' Keepsake	Sport of Crimson Frost	Tiger Musky	Wrangler's Prairie Fire
Pink Elephant	Gold	Rebel's Carousel	Rococo Orchid Blue	Skagit Lil' Pal	Sport of Red Erika	Timber Top	Wrangler's Ricochet
Pink Fingers	Rainbow's Especially	Spinner	Rococo Red	Skagit Lil' Peach	Spring Deb	Tinani's Blue Eyes	Romance
Pink Frosting	Yours	Rebel's Cherry Flambe	Rococo Rose	Skagit Lil' Pearl	Spring Joy	Tinani's Wild Girl	Wrangler's Rough
Pink Geneva	Rainbow's Fantasy	Rebel's Fairy Stars	Rococo White	Skagit Lil' Pepperpot	Spring Kiss	Tinted Snow	Rider
Pink Girl	Festival	Rebel's Lollipop	Rodeo Flashdance	Skagit Lil' Red	Star of David	Tiny Pink	Wrangler's Roundup
Pink Mink	Rainbow's Fantasy	Spinner	Roma's Delight	Skagit Lil' Showoff	Star of India	Tipt	Wrangler's Sonuvagun
Pink Owl	(Frost)	Red Adena	Rosalynn Carter	Skagit Lil' Trinket	Stars and Stripes	Titan Blue	Wrangler's Twilight
Pink Prolifity	Rainbow's Fantasy	Red and White	Rosebud Trail	Skagit Lil' Vixen	Starstruck	Top Notch	Trail
Pink Reverie	Heirloom	Red Carnation	Rose Bandmaster	Skagit Lil' Winner	Star Trailer	Top Shelf	Wrangler's Yankee
Pink Ribbons	Rainbow's Fantasy	Red Pinwheel	Rose Embroidery	Skagit Pageant	Stateliner	Toyland Sport	Yodler
Pink Ruffled	Passion	Red Ribbons	Rose of Lorraine	Skagit Peewee Trails	Stormy Night	Toy Soldier	Yarrow Briar Rose
Pink Satin Pillows	Rainbow's Fantasy	Red Rocket	Rose Picturesque	Skagit Petite Charm	Striped Honey	Tra LaLa	Yarrow Summit
Pink Velvet	Pastel	Red Velvet	Rosie Lou	Skagit Petite Gift	Strobe Light	Tribute	Yasuyo
Pinocchio	Rainbow's Flaming	Reed's Pink Lemonade	Rowena	Skagit Pixie Delight	Sue Hoffman	Tribute to Bill	Yasuyo Sport
Pistachio	Crystal	Regina	Royal Child	Skagit Pixie Hero	Sugar Frost (Swift)	Triple Threat	Zaca Rooney
Pitty Patt	Rainbow's Fools Gold	Renee	Royal Elegance	Skagit Pixie Trails	Sugar n' Spice	Tula	Zaca's Fantah
Play Thing	Rainbow's Fuji Gold	Renee Edmondson	Royal Heart	Skagit Rainbow Trails	Sugar Plum Fairy	Twinkle	Zaca's Georgette
Plum Passion	Rainbow's Galactic	Rhapsodie Evelyn	Royal Hussy	Skagit Rambling Trails	Summer Lightening	Twist of Lime	Zippy (Baker)
Plum Sporty	Starburst	Rhapsodie Maria	Royal Ruby	Skagit Royalty	Summer Silk	Uler's Azure Beauty	Zodiac
Plum Tip	Rainbow's Gauguin	Rhapsodie Venus	Ruffles n' Romance	Skagit Small Affair	Suncoast Candy Stripe	Ultra Violet Twinkle	Zuri
Pom Pom Delight	Rainbow's Great	Rhapsody	Ruthie's Bell	Skagit Small Comfort	Suncoast Pink Giant	Unpredictable (Swift)	
Pony Tail	White	Rhinstone Cowboy	Sabrina	Skagit Small Creation	Suncoast Starsplash	Valera	
Poodle Top	Rainbow's Jo Wells	Rhonda Sport	Sabrina Marie	Skagit Small Comfort	Sunday Morning	Victorian Pink	



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Optimara Little Moonstone

Exhibited by: Tony Hulleman

Hybridized by: Holtkamp

Miniature



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Keeping Things Clean *or* *The Importance of Being Earnest*

One of the most unrelenting activities in a growing area is keeping things clean. Let's face it, caring for our favorite plants can be messy. Here are a few examples of those little annoyances many growers face when time is short and the task list is long:

- "It seems like every time I water, a saucer overflows or a plant is knocked over."
- "When repotting, I find I haven't got enough clean pots in the size that's needed."
- "I can't find the tool I need because it's in a pile waiting to be washed."

You get the picture; there's always something that needs washing, wiping or tidying up. Staying on top of the clean-up chores can consume valuable time. Yet, the condition of your growing environment can dramatically affect the overall success of your plants. This column will review the type of activities that you should consider placing on your priority list.

African Violets Need to Breathe

Dust allergies are a problem that many people struggle with in their home environments. Lots of folks are sensitive to a broad range of particles. The simple act of opening a window or door is just one way of allowing dust, pollen or other air-borne particles to come inside.

Plants have environmental sensitivities too. The build-up of dust, particles, or pet hair on the foliage can smother a plant, block its light source, or give it a dull and lifeless

appearance. Often, we don't notice dust on our plants because the hairy nature of the foliage often masks it. Consider how much activity happens in and around your growing area. If there is a lot of activity, take a closer look at your plants. You may find they might need a bit of freshening up.

What can you do? A combination of good air circulation and clean foliage will allow plants to be able to take advantage of the air, humidity and light available in the growing environment.

Quick Tips:

- *Bathe your plants on a routine basis.*
Tilt the plant slightly under a faucet and run a warm flow of water over the foliage to remove any dust and/or soil particles. Cover the top of the pot with plastic wrap if you are concerned about washing away the potting mix in the process. Pat the foliage dry with a paper towel or soft cloth and leave it away from any light source until dry. It is important to avoid getting water in the crown. Gently use the edge of a dry paper towel to reach into the crown area to be certain all water has been absorbed. Your plants will reward you with bright, shining foliage.
- *Keep those lovable pets away.*
Lightly brush pet hair away with a soft brush to avoid any build up between washings. Support the foliage with your fingers when brushing.

- *Help the lights shine.*

Use a soft, damp cloth to remove dust from the tops of lighting fixtures as well as from the bulbs or light tubes when they are not in use. It is amazing how much dust and dirt our light fixtures attract. Electricity costs are on the rise, so make sure you get the brightest light you can out of those bulbs.

African Violets Are Vulnerable to Problems

We are all concerned about pests and diseases that may affect our plants. It can never be said enough that all new plants must be isolated for a period of time before allowed to join the rest of the group (2-3 months is recommended). Even when all precautions appear to be taken, a plant can contract a disease or develop a pest infestation. A clean growing area can help you single out problems before they spread.

Quick Tips:

- *Stall the spread of pests.*

Trays tell all. Wash trays thoroughly at least every three months to remove residue, loose soil and old plant debris. It is important to see what's happening in and around a plant. Too much litter on the tray can disguise pest activity.

- *Stop the spread of disease.*

Make certain all pots and tools are sterilized before reuse. All pots, water reservoirs, saucers or other container materials should be soaked and scrubbed before putting

back into service. A simple solution of hot water and household bleach (1 gal. water to 1 cup bleach) is an excellent choice for killing unwanted organisms (e.g. algae and bacteria). Use the same bleach and water solution to help remove excess fertilizer salts crusted on the edges of pots before using again.

Healthy Plants Are a Sight for Sore Eyes

Every time you enter your growing area, healthy African Violets should capture your attention. If you see too many things that need doing, even the simplest of tasks becomes neglected. Caring for your plants should not become a chore. Develop a routine of care that includes time for proactive clean-up. Being prepared will ensure that you will have supplies and tools ready when needed, while protecting your plants from unwanted problems at the same time.

Quick Tip:

- *Stick to a schedule.*

Place a calendar in your plant room. Mark dates to do specific cleaning activities. Make sure the tasks are spread out and manageable throughout each month. Indicate the big clean-up events first (e.g. washing trays) and build the rest of the schedule around those dates. The calendar will keep your eye on what needs to be done without having to rely on your memory of what to do and when you last did it.

Grow smart. Grow well.

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LITTLE JEWELS

by Nancy Robitaille

Miniature and semi-miniature African violets, commonly called minis and semi-minis (or even semis), are often hard to find on the general market. Nurseries, home stores, or grocery stores often do not have them on the shelves. But, those devoted growers can search them out in trades or in commercial African violet growers advertised in AVSA Magazine.

The History of Minis and Semis

Minis and semi-minis are not just 'bonsaied' African violets or standard plants which have been miniaturized by being grown in small pots or through root pruning. These are genetic dwarfs.

The history of the development of miniatures and semi-miniatures has never been recorded precisely, although some were undoubtedly sports of standard-sized African violets. Minis and semis were probably a result from crosses with one of the species of African violets, probably *Saintpaulia shumensis*, which is a natural dwarf.

I believe it was at the national convention in 1954 when Lyndon Lyon presented for the first time a double rose flower on a standard plant. This sensation was a hit, and because of the beauty of the new double pink, show goers ignored the important introduction of the first trailers presented by Anne and Frank Tinari. Since no one was interested in the trailers, the Tinaris devoted their time to other pursuits.

Ten years later, Lyndon Lyon developed an interest in these trailers, and he started working with them. He put many colors and types of flowers onto trailing foliage. This progressed to an interest in the species miniature African violet, *S. shumensis*.

When Lyon's hybrids started growing out, he had another great discovery which led to miniature and semi-miniature African violets.

Most truly innovative developments in African violet hybridization have their origins in the various species saintpaulias, so this would not be surprising. *S. shumensis* was found on a dry cliff face in the Western Usambara Mountains in Tanzania, Africa.

Crossing dwarf species violets with small standards of various colors, then back crossing these hybrids many times



Optimara Little Cowgirl

undoubtedly led to violets with smaller leaves and flowers that came to be known as minis. These were originally called 'Teacup violets.'

The petioles (leaf stems) and the leaf blades were shorter than those of standard violets, which led naturally to small-growing plants.

One reason that many people suspect there are a great many species' genes in modern minis and semi-minis is their tendency to produce a great many

suckers, especially when the plants are left too dry or they are still young. (Some cultivars will do this if disbudded.) That would make sense if one considers that *S. shumensis*, although it can be grown as a single-crown plant when constantly groomed, is normally a trailing species and is therefore genetically programmed to produce large numbers of secondary stems.

Another link to the wild violet theory is that older minis and semis do not flower as frequently or with as much energy as the newer varieties since they only have one or two flowers per stem, similar to *S. shumensis*. Compare this to more modern mini and semi-mini hybrids, which often have twelve flowers per flower stem.

The More, The Merrier

Leaves and suckers from African violets may be rooted in order to produce more plants in very little time. The procedure of producing new minis or semi-minis from leaves is exactly the same as with standard plants. Simply cut the leaf neatly at its base, place it in the rooting mixture at a 45 degree angle using a name tag to hold it in place, then place a plastic sack over it so it will receive good humidity. Within about six weeks, the leaf should be well-rooted and may even be showing fresh green growths at its base, the 'mouse-ears.' When these babies have leaves about the size of a dime, cut or break them apart, making sure that each plantlet, which by now will have four or more leaves, has its own set of roots.

Little Pots for Little Treasures

In the case of minis, put the babies in two or two-and-one-half inch pots while semi-minis can be planted in two-

and-one-half or later three-inch pots. Both will require pots of this size for the rest of their lives. This doesn't mean they should never be repotted, only that when they are repotted, they should simply be repotted into pots of that same size. Over-potting plants with such a small root system could easily cause root rot and may also cause the plant to become oversized – and minis and semis are *supposed* to be small!

In African violet or horticultural shows, miniatures should never exceed six inches circumference of the plant. For semis, they should never exceed eight inches in circumference although blossoms may extend beyond the leaves. If either is planted in a larger pot than recommended, the plant will grow larger, but never to the point where it looks like a standard. Besides, it is unlikely to bloom well under these conditions since violets bloom best when their root growth is restricted somewhat.



Rob's Whippoorwill

Repotting Minis and Semis

The recommendation for repotting standard violets is twice a year. Since minis and semis are grown in such small pots, the soil can be used up and root growth may be overly restricted leading to plant problems. Minis and semis need to be repotted three to four times a year. The small amount of growing medium available to them in these small pots and the nutrients found naturally in the peat moss are quickly depleted. Mineral salts and other contaminants quickly build up in such small pots.

To repot miniature and semi-miniatures, simply take them out of their pots, remove as much of the soil as possible or cut off one-third of the root ball and pull off all dead or dying leaves. Trim any extra leaves to bring the plant back to a perfect rosette form. If the main stem (neck) of the plant has become too long and lanky, it may be necessary to cut the complete root ball off. Here, scrape the neck of the plant lightly as you would scrape a carrot. Replant this in fresh medium, placing a plastic bag over the entire plant and pot to maintain a high humidity during rooting. Repotting minis and semi-minis rejuvenates them. It will take about two months for them to respond and to reach their full potential.

Top Performance from Little Plants

Both semis and minis should be grown in a rosette or wheel-like form. Many of these plants grow that way naturally and, if given proper lighting, will attain that shape with little help. If grown in windows, they must be given a quarter turn every few days so that the plant receives equal lighting all around the rosette.

Semis and minis grown in a light garden should be placed closer to the lights than standard African violets since they need more light than larger plants. Place the top of the plant about six to eight inches from the florescent tubes. Watch carefully for burning.

Some of these small plants, like variegated plants or white-flowered cultivars, should be grown towards the ends of the tubes where it is cooler and the light is not quite as strong. Dark-colored foliage plants, on the other hand, grow best nearer the center of the tubes but should be checked frequently to make sure they are not suffering from excess light. This may be seen as a yellowish coloration or as tight centers. Be careful, though, not to confuse the latter symptom (tight centers but otherwise healthy growth) with that of an infestation of mite.

Semi-minis and minis require the same watering practices as standards, although their smaller pots dry out more rapidly than larger pots, which mean they must be watered more frequently.

Light is important for flowering. But, the best way to get African violets to bloom, whether they are standards, minis, semi-minis or micro-minis or trailers, is to fertilize with each watering. Add one-quarter teaspoon fertilizer to one gallon of warm water that has been sitting overnight in an open container to allow chlorine to evaporate. Water the plants either by soaking the growing medium from above and allowing the water to run out or by using watering techniques such as mats, wicking, "Texas-Style", or bottom watering from a saucer.



Pink Dove

VACATION CARE FOR YOUR VIOLETS

by Sue Gardner

Many of us like to enjoy vacations, but wonder what will happen to our African violets left behind with no one to water or care for them. What can we do to ensure they stay healthy while we are away?

Summer Holidays

There are three main things to be considered in leaving African violets on their own for a few weeks in summer – temperature, light, and water.

Temperature

When we go on vacation, the windows and doors of the house are usually tightly closed. This means the temperature will be lower inside than outside. So on a hot summer day, the plants will not become too hot. Usually when we are home, we open the doors from time to time allowing hot air to enter the house. A closed building remains at a reasonable temperature for most of the time even if the weather varies over a period of days.

If you live where temperatures remain very high for weeks on end, you may like to leave your cooling system operating. Very few people like to do this. The plants usually cope if they are accustomed to warmer weather.

During a period of hot weather, blinds could be left lowered while you are away. This will help keep the house cooler. Of course, you need to leave blinds up where natural light is needed for your plants.

If you use fluorescent lighting, closed blinds and drapes will keep the house temperature fairly even.

Light

If you use fluorescent lighting, put them on a timer allowing ten to twelve hours of light. Some growers use these at night to make their home look occupied as a security measure.

If you use natural light, you will have to ascertain before you leave just where the sunlight will reach through the windows for the length of your vacation. You can then leave your plants with good light but no danger of sunburn.

Water

Our club members usually wick water their plants. It is an excellent way to water your plants while on holidays. Using

large reservoirs will ensure that the plants do not dry out. I use gallon ice cream containers successfully. If you use plastic trays with mesh inserts, you may raise the mesh to the top of the tray with supports, as this allows you to fill the reservoir tray to a higher level. Or you could use a wire cake rack, which will sit over the top of trays also allowing you to fill reservoirs to the very top.

If you have not used wick watering before, make sure you place your plants on wicks at least a week before you leave for vacation so that you are sure the system is working well.

Some people in the past have placed clay bricks in a bath and added an inch of water (with the bathplug in, of course!). They then place their plants on the wet bricks. I think carrying bricks is hard work and think of the mess in the bathtub and the cleaning up!

Other people have sealed their plants in plastic bags. The plant is watered well, then drained of excess and enclosed in the bag. Do not wick water any plants in plastic bags as they remain moist enough. This method can be very successful. Don't place the bag in direct sunlight however.

Winter Holidays

Cold weather presents other problems for African violets left behind in a chilly house. Water, light, and temperature have to be carefully used together. Temperature is critical. Could you leave the heating on in your home? If someone "house sits" for you, there is no problem. But if the house is cold and the plants are too wet, they suffer. Perhaps the best thing to do is to enclose your plants in a plastic bag as described earlier. If your plants are used to wick watering, they may survive a short cold period while still on reservoirs.

If you are going on an extended vacation, you may ask a friend to care for your violets in their home. Few club members have the room to do this however. You would have to warn any inexperienced caregiver to avoid over-watering.

If you have fluorescent lights, you could use a timer to turn them on at night when it is coldest as they will supply some warmth.

From the *Newsletter* of the
Early Morn AV Group, Australia



AVSA Building Maintenance Fund

Hurricane Rita Repair Fund

Susan Hapner, *Chairman*

Donations Received

1 December to 31 December 2005

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AVS of Oklahoma City	20.00
Heart of MO AVS	10.00
Aurora Borealis AV Society	200.00
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AVS of Greater Tulsa/OK	250.00
AV Society of Dayton – Ohio	50.00
Annapolis Valley AVS/Canada	50.00
Winnipeg AVS (WAVS) – Canada	100.00
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AVS of Rochester/NY	300.00

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Sweet Water AVS/NY	125.00
Sweet Water AVS/NY	180.00

In Lieu of Christmas Gift exchange

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Bergen County AVS/NJ	125.00
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Nancy Amelung	50.00
Sharon Johnson	25.00
Susan Schinckel	50.00
Anonymous	25.00
Lynn Milgrom	70.00
TOTALS to date	\$7689.35

Thanks to Nancy Amelung for taking the time to help me get all of the letters organized and sent out. She also made sure that I stayed "organized" through all of the piles of paperwork that came about as a result of everyone's generosity.

.....

AVSA Building Maintenance Fund

Donations Received

1 December to 31 December 2005

Sherry Parsons	\$10.00
Linda Allen	10.00
Ralph Mancusi	5.00
Sheila Ando	5.00
Lynda Abendschan	5.00
Dorothy Gibson	15.00
Kim Massar	25.00
Nellie Reese	25.00
Anita Clark	25.00
AV Society of Syracuse	50.00

In Memory of Ethel Champion

Totals for December \$175.00

Please note the following corrections to November's listings.

Garden State AV Club of NJ
In Memory of Robert Hughes
Audrey Hanthorn instead of Hawthorne
Linda Bridges instead of Budges
Mary and Tom Ryan
In Memory of Ethel Champion
instead of under Desert Sun AVC



Streptocarpella
'Blueberry Creme'

Exhibited by: Gertrud Schneider



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

Phinaea sp.
USBRG 96-336

Exhibited by: Bill Price



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

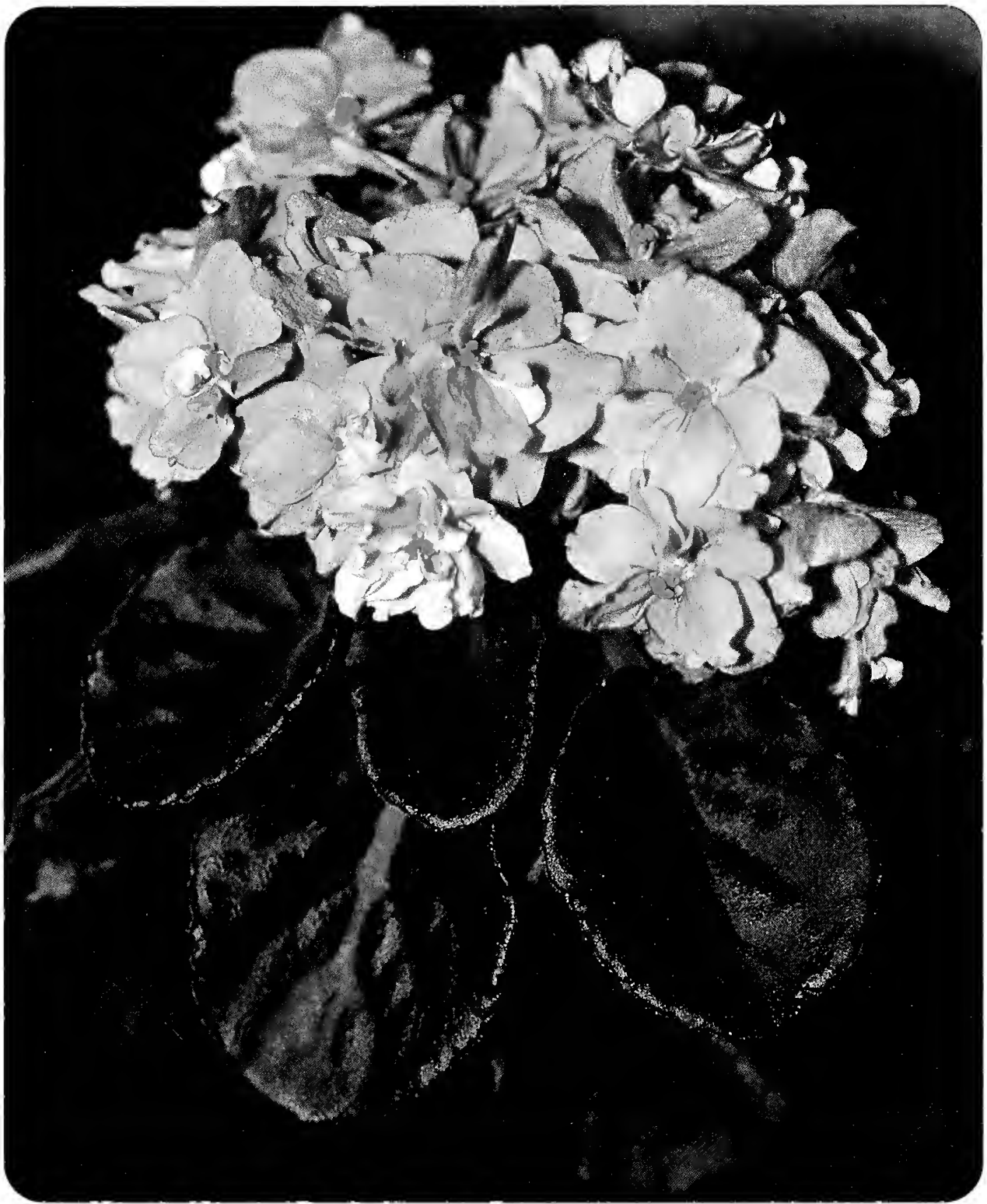


Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

ACA's Pink Pansy

Exhibited by: Lynn Moore

Hybridized by: J. Brownlie

Large



Laurel D. Goretsky
32 Scimitar Point N.W.
Calgary, Alberta, Canada
T3L 2B2
Email: Laurel@Goretsky.ca

Here we are, well on our way through 2006, and I am going to do a personal review of growing miniatures and semiminiatures over the past year (2005). It may seem strange to be reviewing the past year as most are preparing for spring, but I find that I make many useful resolutions as I prepare for attending a convention.

My first resolution is to look through the miniatures and semiminiatures that I am currently growing and make a wish list of violets that I would like to acquire at the convention in Minnesota. I have mentioned before that on more than one occasion, I have come home from convention with plants that I already have in my collection. This might be okay if you have plenty of space for growing extra plants but since I don't, I need to be more careful about what I purchase.

Secondly, I resolve to repot or pot up plantlets or leaves that I have acquired in a timely fashion. I have such great intentions when I purchase a new plant that I plan to grow it on to be a show winner. Instead, what often happens is that I buy a bunch of starter plants and end up leaving them in too small pots or not repotting them in time to be ready for a show. A general rule of thumb is that miniatures and semiminiatures be repotted every three to four months (page 54 of AVSA Handbook). When I get a new plant, my first step is to repot the plant into my own potting medium. This helps to get the plant used to my growing conditions. Then in three months, I should be repotting or potting up. As I looked back on 2005, I realized that I lost many plants by not paying attention to when I should be repotting. Some solutions to this would be to label the plant with the name and date after it is repotted. One of the members of our local club uses green pots and writes the name of the plant and the date it was potted with a white grease pencil (china marker) directly on the pot. Another idea is to keep a calendar in your plant room or near your potting area and record when you repotted, potted up, or put down a leaf. Which ever method I choose, I will make an

extra effort this year to repot in a more deliberate way.

The third resolution I made is to grow more plants to exhibit at local shows and conventions. My intention is not to win lots of prizes (although that would be nice) but to show the public and other growers the amazing variety of miniatures and semiminiatures that exist. I was surprised recently when looking at the Honor Roll of African Violets on the AVSA website that from 2000 to 2004 only two miniatures/semiminiatures were on the list. 'Rob's Sticky Wicket' is a lovely semiminiature trailer that made the list in 2000. 'Orchard's Bumble Magnet' is an adorable miniature that appears on the Honor Roll in 2004. In my examination of the Honor Roll, I found it interesting that from 1960 to 2004 only ten miniatures have made it to the list. Semiminiatures have done a little bit better with twenty-two varieties being listed. Floyd Lawson faithfully collects the votes for Best Varieties List, and the top twenty-five is then found in Nov/Dec. issue of the AVM for that year. From the Best Varieties list, the Honor Roll is compiled by year. The plant must have been on the Best Varieties list three consecutive times to make it to the Honor Roll. Make sure that you send in your best varieties list so that your favorites can be counted. My hope is that more miniature and semiminiature varieties will be seen on these invaluable lists so that novice to experienced growers will continue to grow these wonderful plants.

Finally, I resolve to thoroughly enjoy the 2006 convention in Minnesota. I want to spend time with friends, old and new. I want to hear your ideas for keeping this column fresh and interesting. I want to find that special miniature or semiminiature that becomes another favorite in my collection. But most of all, I want to keep on sharing my love for growing these terrific little plants.

Be safe, happy, and healthy and make your plans to attend the convention.

See you in Minnesota!



What Determines Halo or Bouquet Blossom Patterns?

by Dr. Jeff Smith

African violets often present their flowers in one of two usual patterns; halo or bouquet. In the halo pattern, the flowers are held in a ring with an open space over the center of the plant. In the bouquet pattern, the flowers are presented as a nosegay or dome of flowers over the center of the plant. The presentation pattern is a result of several factors such as the number of flowers, the way the flowers open, and the strength of the bloom stalk.

In the halo pattern, the number of flowers is often high and the flowers are opened in order of age over a long period of time. Flowers are usually presented to face the outside leaves. Since the opening of the flowers is spread over time, each individual flower can be presented in turn to face the outside. This creates the open area over the center of the plant. The halo pattern may also result if the bloom stalk is unable to hold the flowers upright due to their weight and the flowers lay on the foliage.

In the bouquet pattern, the number of flowers is usually lower and the flowers tend to open more or less at the same time. When the flowers open together, they tend to twist and face outward in all directions, creating a spherical shape rather than a ring. When there are fewer flowers on each stalk, the weight is less and the bloom stalk can hold them upright over the plant center. The spherical shape and close upright bloom stalks combine to create the bouquet pattern.

The halo pattern is the original pattern and is seen in many older cultivars and the rosette species plants. The bouquet pattern is more recent and has been selected for by hybridizers. Based on a very limited data, the halo pattern is probably a genetic dominant to the bouquet pattern, but it is very likely that multiple genes are involved.

From *The Empire Violet Magazine*,
Official Publication of the New York State AVS

NOTICE OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO AVSA BYLAWS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the following proposed amendment to AVSA Bylaws, ARTICLE IX FINANCE, new Section 4, will be considered and voted on at the AVSA 2006 Annual Convention at Minneapolis, MN. If adopted, the amendment would provide for the establishment of the ANNE & FRANK TINARI ENDOWMENT FUND.

ARTICLE IX FINANCE

* * * *

Section 4

ANNE & FRANK TINARI ENDOWMENT FUND: All funds received and designated for the ANNE & FRANK TINARI ENDOWMENT FUND shall be invested in accordance with AVSA's principles of preservation of capital. Funds may be invested in any combination of mutual funds, bond funds, and certificates of deposit as agreed upon by AVSA's Finance Chair, Finance Committee, and AVSA Treasurer.

❖ The initial gift and future contributions shall be invested for perpetual growth. The principal shall never be spent nor can there be borrowings from the principal. A portion of the earned income and appreciation may be distributed to meet operating budget expenses or other project expenses, but not the principal. Any unused earned income or interest shall be reinvested.

❖ A report shall be furnished quarterly to the AVSA President and annually to the Board of Directors.

❖ The AVSA Finance Committee shall be responsible to the Board of Directors for the administration of the ANNE & FRANK TINARI ENDOWMENT FUND.

[Current Section 4 will become Section 5.]

Mary Lou Harden, *Chair; AVSA Bylaws Committee*
Christel H. Collier
Ruth Goeke
Bob Green
Sue Ramser
Lynne Wilson

Rationale for AVSA's Proposal to Establish an Endowment Fund

❖ It is an effective and appropriate way to honor two highly esteemed and beloved growers of African violets who, for many years, made significant contributions to the African Violet Society of America, Inc. and to the development and culture of African violets and other gesneriads.

❖ It shows AVSA is committed to providing services over a long period of time. It's a long-term investment in AVSA.

❖ It demonstrates that AVSA is both stable and visionary – that we are planning for a future in which our organization will be a larger, stronger institution, even more capable of carrying out our mission. The addition of an endowment fund effort can encourage our current donors to provide additional long-term support since it shows our foresight as an organization planning to stabilize its financial resources.

YVONNE LAMBERT CANADIAN HYBRIDIZER

by Nancy Robitaille

Yvonne Lambert, from Ontario, Canada, has been hybridizing violets for the last twenty-five years.

When asked what her present and future goals were in hybridizing, she said her goal was to create dependable, show-worthy plants, now and in the future.

Lambert has been showing plants for many years, and her interest in hybridizing began as a secondary interest but from the looks of some of the plants, I'd say she was well on her way to her goal.

Yvonne cares for about eighty African violets from various hybridizers. Among her favorites are 'Apache Freedom', 'Opera's Romeo' and 'Precious Pink.' Yvonne has released twenty-two cultivars during her years of work. Some of those are:



Symphonette

'Symphonette' – Single to semi-double lavender two-tone pansy on variegated foliage.

'Busy Bea' – Miniature single to semi-double lavender two-tone

'Von's Friend Syl' – Pale pink pansy on variegated foliage

'Von's Little Lady' – Double pink two-tone pansy

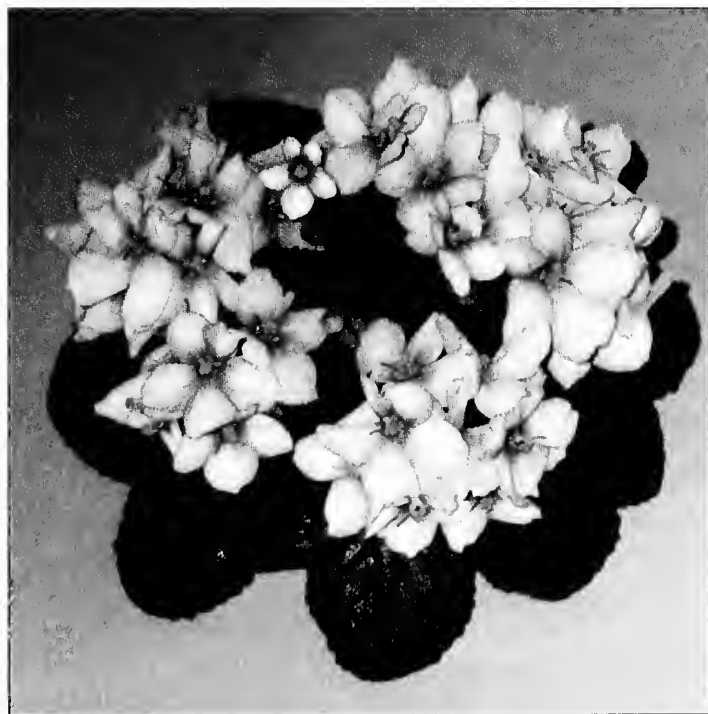
'Von's Simple Simon' – Single mauve two-tone pansy

In the beginning of her hybridizing she read many books and articles, and she also had a good basic knowledge of the subject in horticulture,

since her degree was in biology. Although Yvonne has not worked on anything lately, she is excited about getting back into the swing of things as far as hybridizing is concerned.



Tess



Von's Baby Jay

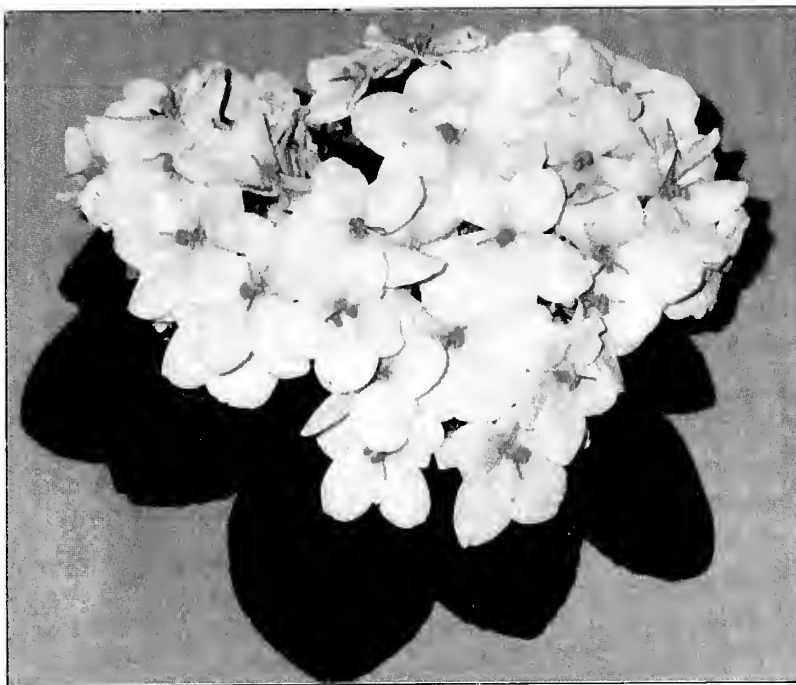
Of her own cultivars, her favorite is 'Symphonette'. Among other hybridizers, the one who most influenced her is Hortense Pittman.

Her favorite to work with is lavender. She does not hybridize other gesneriads or other houseplants, and she has been working exclusively with semiminatures, although she has released some

miniatures. Just recently Yvonne released a standard, 'Von's Moon Shadows.'

In shows, Yvonne has won Best Seedling with several of her own plants. Her plants shown by others have won Best Semiminature in Show and have been part of Best Collections."

*Photos
Courtesy of
Yvonne Lambert*



Von's Elegance



Von's Marissa



Von's Moon Shadows

Would You Like to See a High Quality Photo of YOUR Plant in the AVM?

Are you proud of a plant or two from your collection? If you would like to see them in this magazine, take a picture and send it to our Editor. If they are high quality 35mm photos, please send as a slide or color print. If digital, save at 300 dpi, send on a disk, or by email. Include your name and the name of the plant.

Only photos of your plants, please! No ribbons, other plants, name cards, or happy faces!

Send to: **Ruth Rumsey**, 2375 North St., Beaumont, TX 77702.

Email: <rrumsey@earthlink.net>.

Save a copy for yourself! Photos and disks will NOT be returned.

WICKS AND ROCKS

by Irving Tashlick

In the quest for a solution to the problem of watering plants during vacation trips, I became aware of passive hydroponic systems, which use reservoirs and wicking action to provide water and nutrients to plants. In Europe, hydroculture pots using expanded clay pebbles have been in use for fifty years and are recommended for African violets.

I have been successfully growing African violets for about two years using clay pellets, wicks and reservoirs.

THE CONDITIONS

My growing area is a room about 9 ft. by 11 ft. with white walls and one large window. In the center of the room is a table 5 ft. by 7.5 ft., which holds 100 violets in various stages of growth. The main light source is one 400 watt high intensity discharge lamp mounted forty inches above the table. The temperature is usually controlled between 62°F and 84°F. Most of the time the humidity is controlled between 50% and 55%. I use plastic pots ranging in size 1 1/2" to 4", but most plants are in 2, 2" or 3" pots.

THE ROCKS

Lightweight expanded clay aggregate is manufactured from clay which is pulverized and formed into pellets which are fired in kilns at 1900°F which causes the pellets to expand and form sponge-like cells. The primary use of these pellets is as aggregate in lightweight concrete. Under brand names such as Hydroton, Leca, Prime Agra, Aliflor, Geolite and many others, they are used as the growing medium in various hydroculture and hydroponic systems. Most of the time, I have been using the Prime Agra brand. These irregularly shaped expanded clay pellets are available in two sizes, medium (4mm. to 8mm.) and coarse (8mm. to 16mm.). For pot sizes up to 2k" I use the medium size pellets. For larger pots, I use the coarse size. In most cases, I put a few large size pellets in the bottom of the pot to keep the smaller ones from falling through. The used rocks may be cleaned and sterilized with a bleach solution. I usually only recycle the coarse size.

THE WICKS

For pots up to 2 inches in diameter, I use a single wick 6" to 8" in length and 1/16" wide. The wick is 100% nylon and often sold as surveyors cord. Three to four inches of wick is left hanging out of the bottom of the pot, and the rest is spiraled around the area between the lower half and the lower quarter of the pot in order to maximize contact between the wicks and the rocks. For larger pots, 1/8" diameter braided nylon cord is used. In most cases, the ends of the wicks in the pot are frayed.

POTTING AND REPOTTING

I start all leaves in vermiculite in the usual way. If the new

plantlets have numerous roots which are about 3/4" long, I put them directly in a 1 1/2" pot with medium size rocks and a wick. Otherwise, I transfer the plantlets to a small pot filled with vermiculite and repot them in rocks after they have developed long enough roots. I use vermiculite for rooting because it is easy to wash off before putting the plantlets in rocks. It is important that there be enough long roots to make contact with the moist pellets. I have successfully grown very small plantlets in transparent pots with no drainage leaving 1/2" of water at the bottom to keep the rocks moist. After sufficient growth has occurred, they can be quite easily transferred to larger pots with wicks. However, I generally use the vermiculite to get the plantlets to the size where a pot with a wick is convenient to use.

As with normal African violet culture, the plants have to be repotted between five months and one year. Repotting to a larger pot is easy. The wick is cut off and replaced with a new one, and the plant is placed at the right height in the new pot which is filled with rocks. During repotting, I re-use all the old pebbles, which are free of the roots, rinsing them with tap water before reuse.

When the plant has a long neck, enough of the root-encrusted pebbles are removed from the bottom with a knife and scissors so that the plant will fit in the new pot. The shortened mass of roots and pebbles are placed in the new pot with a new wick and filled with pebbles.

After a plant is newly potted or repotted, I let it stand in a container of room temperature water, filled to the height of the pebbles, for 15 to 25 minutes. This allows the wicks and any new or dry pebbles to be thoroughly wetted. During the soaking period, the pebbles are tamped down lightly so that any empty spaces are filled and more pebbles are added if necessary.

THE RESERVOIRS:

Most of my reservoirs are the four inches diameter 8 oz. plastic containers widely used in supermarkets. I put the wick through a hole in the center of the lid and fill the reservoir with 4 oz. or 8 oz. of fertilizer solution consisting of one third of a tablespoon of 15-20-20 fertilizer in one gallon of water. A full reservoir will water most plants for 2 to 3 weeks. When I refill the reservoirs, I often flush the pots with tap water or dip them into a container of tap water to wash out any debris or salts.

My favorite reservoir is a one and three quarter inch PVC pipe five feet long and capped at both ends. Seven to ten inch holes are drilled at equally spaced intervals along the length of the pipe, plus one one-half inch fill hole. The pots are placed atop the pipe with a suitable support, and the wicks are inserted into the holes. I use a five-foot grid, like closet shelf, as a support for the pots and fasten the pipe underneath with plas-

tic ties. I have about 32 plants that are watered this way. The opacity of the PVC pipe keeps algae growth to a minimum.

I think the reasons the methods I have outlined are successful in growing African violets and other gesneriads are that there is a great similarity to the conditions achieved with "Texas Style" cultures. There are many air spaces to allow free gas exchange at root tips, the roots have free access to mois-

ture and nutrients and the system depends on capillary action. Because I have found this a simple and convenient way for the hobbyist to successfully grow African violets. I was surprised to find that no one was trying this locally.

I would like to thank Ron Ennis and Eleanor Mattaliano of the Seaview AVS for sharing with me their extensive knowledge of African violet culture and their infectious enthusiasm.



Mushy Leaves

by Carolee Carter

From the AVSA Web Site *Frequently Asked Questions*

"Mushy" leaves can be the result of normal leaf loss, or a loss that is from a more serious problem. As leaves normally age, the color begins to dull and then turns yellowish, and it finally turns mushy, limp, and dies. Once this process begins, remove the leaf immediately. When the leaf begins to turn mushy, the rotting process has begun, and the fungus will spread to other portions of your plant unless you remove that leaf. If a lot of leaves are beginning to fail during the space of a few weeks, this signals that there is something definitely wrong.

Many plants begin to rot from over-watering. When the plant's root system is constantly saturated with water, the roots lose the ability to absorb it and begin to rot. Once this rotting begins, it travels to the leaf petioles and the leaves turn mushy. Growers should examine their watering methods and make sure that their potting mixture is not so heavy that it holds a lot of water. Lighten it up with perlite. Then, water

only when the soil feels dry to the touch. Do not let the soil dry out completely and do not let it get soggy. You can feel it when you pick up the pot. It shouldn't feel heavy and be dripping water.

Never let the pot sit in water. Water it until the water runs out the bottom of the pot. Let it sit in water no longer than 10-15 minutes, then dump out the remaining water. If you feel you are watering your plant correctly, but the leaves are looking mushy, then there are some other possibilities. The rapid demise of leaves could be caused by excessive heat. A gas leak could also be the culprit. Over-fertilization also might be a possibility, especially if there is a build-up of fertilizer salts around the rim of the pot. If the leaf petioles are touching those salts, it will rot the petioles (or leaf stems). Either repot the plant in a new pot or flush out the salts by running tepid water through the pot until it runs clear.



Fighting Powdery Mildew

by Elmer Godeny

From AVSA's Web Site *Frequently Asked Questions*

I have used Ortho's Funginex on my African violets to fight powdery mildew. It will not harm the foliage but may spot the blossoms. For this reason, I always disbud my plants before I spray them with any fungicide. Funginex is a very useful treatment for powdery mildew.

I also use Ortho Rose Pride Orthenex on my African violets which contains Funginex. It is easier to use than mixing up the Funginex. Orthenex comes in a spray. Just be careful not to spray too close. Hold the can at least 12 inches from the plant or the refrigerants in the can (for aerosolization) will damage the foliage.

Another useful product for powdery mildew is Lysol

spray. Again, don't spray too close to the plant. This is particularly useful if you are dealing with small amounts of mildew. I have also heard of people spraying with Dr. Tichner's mouthwash to defeat powdery mildew. This kills the mildew and has the added effect of making the room smell "minty fresh". Regardless of what fungicide you use, make sure the leaves are dry before you return the plant to its light source; otherwise you will get burning of the foliage. To keep powdery mildew under control, make sure that the day time and night time temperatures do not vary by more than ten degrees. Air circulation, using ceiling and oscillating fans, will decrease the chance of mildew production.



Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

B-Man's Caltanissetta

B-Man's Delia

B-Man's Alessio

Exhibited and Hybridized by: Bruno Curcuruto

Large

WICK WATERING

by Ron Smith

Based on an article found in the "Dixie News"

Here are some interesting observations about the use of wicks for growing African violets. There are conflicting views and certainly each viewpoint has merit. It has been found that synthetic fibers, acrylic, nylon, or polyester, work best because unlike natural fibers such as cotton or wool, they do not rot or promote fungal growth. Extensive testing on wicks and wicking action have shown some surprising results. A test, using twelve sizes of wicks, from a small thread to a thick cord about one-fourth inch in diameter, showed unexpected answers to some questions. Twelve violets (same variety, same size, same size pot with same soil) were used to test the twelve sizes of wicks. The wicks were pulled up into the soil the same distance. Additional tests were made with the wicks in the pot in various places and configurations, and it made very little difference in the overall growth and health of the violets. There were small differences in the uniformity of moisture, especially in larger pots where two wicks produced more uniform moisture in the soil. The pots were set on a grid with all twelve pots the same distance from the bottom of the pot to the water surface.

Another test showed that with nylon wicks, the maximum distance water would travel up the wick was about four inches. There did not appear to be any wick too big. These and subsequent test showed that the wick, regardless of size, would carry only as much water up to the soil as the soil would accept. Once the soil has taken up all the water it will hold, no more water will be transferred from the wick.

This appears to mean that the key factor is: "How the much water will the soil hold?" A wick too small would not carry up enough water for a large plant, for a plant in air conditioning or any situation where evaporation or use of water exceeded the amount of water the wick could transport. The wicks failed when the soil got too wet or too dry. Perhaps the ideal situation would be 1:3 soil, 1:3 water and 1:3 air.

The soil and plant will get too wet when:

1) The soil holds too much water when the soil composition is too heavy. (The addition of perlite or something similar will help keep the soil "light" and help prevent packing).

2) The soil is pressed in pot too tightly.

3) The plant has not been re-potted often enough. When the violet is not re-potted often enough, at least three adverse conditions occur. First, the pH drops. Perfect potting mix starts with a pH of about 6.8. After about six months, it drops to about 4.2. A low pH deters proper uptake of nutrients needed by the plant, and it also speeds up deterioration of some of the soil components. Breakdown of the potting mix will help it hold too much water. As the roots grow, they take up space and begin to help fill the pot, and they pack the soil so it will hold too much water.

The soil will get too dry when:

1) The wick is too small for the conditions.

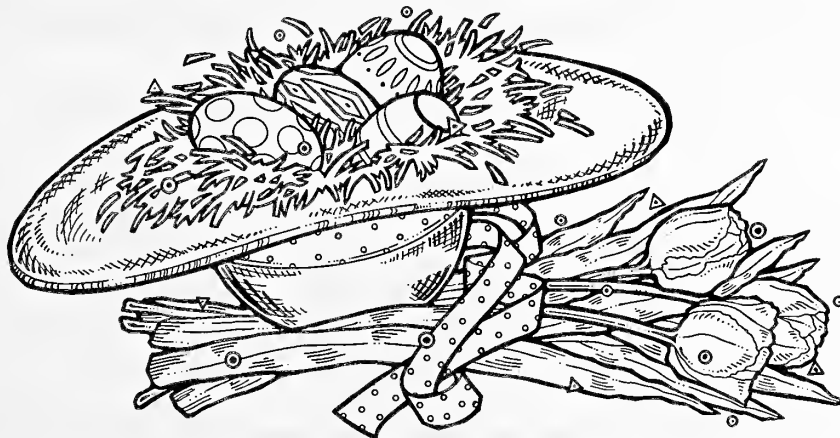
2) When the water supply is cut off and the wick and/or the soil have become completely dry (gradually re-wetting the soil and the wick will re-start the wicking action).

3) The soil has dried enough for it to pull away from the inside of the pot leaving a space between the soil and the inside of the pot, allowing additional drying.

4) The wick has become plugged up with algae or minerals from the fertilizer or hard water. Algae grows where the water or wet surfaces are exposed to sufficient light.

The bottom line is that wick watering is one of the easiest ways to grow violets, but it is not a magic or elixir to cure all ills; TLC is still needed to grow violets successfully.

From the *Newsletter* of the
Early Morn AV Group, Australia



UREA IN OUR FERTILIZERS

by Nancy Robitaille

We have been discussing the pros and cons (mostly the cons) about urea in fertilizers for some time. Why should we not use fertilizers with high content of urea? How does urea affect our plants?

Urea is an organic compound of carbon, nitrogen, oxygen, and hydrogen. Atoms of urea are made from carbon dioxide, water aspartate, and ammonia, in a metabolic pathway sometimes known as the urea cycle. This must be neutralized since it is toxic.

Urea is actually a waste product with no physiological function. Urea is used as a raw material in the manufacture of plastics, urea-formaldehyde resin. It is a component of fertilizer and animal feed to promote growth.

Urea is used as an alternative to rock salt to de-ice highways and city sidewalks since urea is less corrosive to metal than rock salt. Urea is an additive ingredient in cigarettes, designed to enhance flavor.

It is used as an ingredient in hair conditioners, facial cleansers, bath oils, and lotion. It is also used in skin products to promote rehydration of the skin.

Yet, what concerns African violet growers is the fact that urea does not allow plants to gather up nutrients from the fertilizers. In fact, this action is inhibited by urea.

Urea is human or animal urine. In 1773, H.M. Rouelle discovered a way to make urea chemically - ammonium cyanate.

Urea is produced commercially by the dehydration of the chemical ammonium carbonate at very high temperatures and pressure.

When urea is used in fertilizer, it is used as a nitrogen release. An impurity, Biuret, must be present in quantities of less than two percent since it impairs plant growth.

Urea is 45% nitrogen with 55% inert material. Animal urine is close to 2-5% nitrogen.

Why is urea put into fertilizers? Urea pushes plants to grow; in fact, plants grow too fast making them weak, which promotes stress.

Urea also destroys soil organisms; it increases pest and disease activities.

Nitrogen from urea can not be used by plants until it has been transformed by microbes in the soil. Since most of us use a soilless mix, urea builds up, remaining in the soil until it turns acidic which can burn roots.

The conversion of urea to plant-available ammonium can take place only if the urea is dissolved in the soil solution. While urea in fertilizers put onto crops growing in soil has certain good qualities, it can cause difficulties with houseplants.

Very little ammonia exists at pH 7 and below. With a higher pH, the proportion of the nitrogen as ammonia increases greatly.

Following is a list of popular brands of fertilizers often used by African violet growers. Keep in mind that formulas can easily be changed by manufacturers.

Schultz Instant Liquid, 8-14-9 urea content: 6.9%

Schultz African Violet, 10-15-10 urea content : 8.4%

Schultz All Purpose Plus, 20-30-20 urea content : 16.8%

Schultz Bloom Plus, 10-60-10 urea content : 0%

Dyna-Gro, 7-9-5 urea content : 0%

Peter's All Purpose, 20-20-20 urea content : 18.3%

Peter's AV, 12-36-14 urea content: 1.09%

Peter's Root 'N' Bloom, 5-60-17 urea content: 0%

Optimara AV, 14-12-14 urea content: 0%

Stern's Miracle Grow AV, 7-7-7 urea content: 6.6%

Carl Pool AV, 11-40-20 urea content 4.5%

Each time you purchase fertilizer, read the contents label. Manufacturers can change ingredients, formulations or application rates.

Correction to 2006 AVSA Convention Design Schedule

Please correct the Design Schedule for the Minneapolis AVSA Convention printed in the January-February 2006 issue of the African Violet Magazine.

The last two sentences of Class 75 should read: Lower edge of oval is one-fourth inch above floor of shadowbox. Limit 8 entries.

Rejuvenation

by Peg Eaton

It's not only our violets that need perking up after the long winter! But, spring is around the corner, and now is a great time to shower some extra TLC on your plants. They will reward you richly in short order. There are a number of things you can do to refresh your violet collection.

First, make some time to repot your plants. Most violet growers today use a "soiless mix" consisting of various proportions of sphagnum peat moss, perlite, and vermiculite. Because this medium is sterile, it's important that we regularly fertilize our violets to provide the nutrients they need to grow and bloom. Violets bloom only on new growth, so it's important to support that growth. However, the constant use of fertilizer, combined with the breakdown of the peat moss, can drastically affect the pH of the soil, and this can make our violet lose the ability to actually "use" the fertilizer that we are providing them. The soil can become acidic, and nutrients are then "locked up." So, it's important to provide new soil, via repotting, at least once per year (that's the very minimum; ideally you should try to repot a couple of times a year and more often if you are growing for show).

During your repotting adventure, take the time to check for "necks" and "suckers." If the violet has a neck, trim off a portion of the roots about equal to the size of the neck (e.g. if the neck is about one-half inch tall, then take about one-half inch off the bottom of the root ball). If you've got a very long neck, then major surgery could be required, in which case you'd have to cut off the entire root ball but that's a topic for another time. Scrape the flesh of the neck lightly with your fingernail or some other fairly blunt object so that new roots can grow from this area once it's submerged in fresh soil. Also take this time to check for any signs of pests or disease.

Another easy treat for your violet is a nice, warm bath! Our houses in the winter get very dry and dusty, and if you have pets, you'll have even more dust! Our African violet

leaves, which are covered with tiny hairs, are real dust magnets and can get coated with dust and dander. This impedes the plants "breathing" (remember your high school biology?). Those leaves are covered with tiny pores, or stomata, which are necessary for photosynthesis and transpiration (taking carbon dioxide in and giving off oxygen and water). So clear off that dust and debris and give your violets a gentle washing. Before you start, cover the soil in the pot with some plastic wrap that will prevent the soil from washing out and down your drain. Fill a dishpan with warm water and add a bit of a mild dish detergent (such as Ivory) to the water. This will act as a wetting agent and help clean the leaves. Swish the upside down plant around in the water and once the leaves are wet, very gently massage the leaves to break up any dust particles. After that, the leaves can gently be rinsed under running warm water. Before putting wet plants back under the lights, (this is especially important for window-grown plants) be sure to let them "dry off" completely. Take care to ensure that the very center of the crown does not stay wet, so use some tissue to blot the water out of the center. Make sure plants are not subject to extremes of temperature as drops of water left on the leaves that then become cold will cause water spotting damage, which is NOT reversible!

Once your plants are repotted, bathed, and returned to their "home," either under lights or in a window, you should start to see the fruits of your labor in a couple of weeks. New growth should appear that is fresher and greener than the old, and shortly after that, buds will be peeking out from under that new growth! One last tip – if you ARE growing under lights: check to see when you last changed your bulbs; they may be due for replacement.

From *Ye Bay Stater*, publication of the Bay State AVS

Exploring and Shopping

by Ruth Bann

Would you like to turn explorer? You are in luck, because the Sheraton Hotel is next to a Metro Transit Bus Stop. Bus schedules are available at the hotel, and you can ride the bus to the Mall of America Station. At this Station, you can take a twelve-mile ride on the new Light Rail Transit to downtown Minneapolis. You can enjoy shopping on the Nicollet



Mall or continue further down the line to the renovated Warehouse District with its trendy shops, theaters, nightclubs, bars, and restaurants.

This is a very inexpensive sightseeing and shopping trip. No wear and tear on the car and no parking fees. What a great way to spend time in Minneapolis while enjoying the Convention.

Coming Events



March 3 & 4 - FLORIDA

Central Florida AVS Show/Sale
Orlando, FL
Mar 3 - noon - 4pm
Mar 4 - 10am - 4pm
Info: (407) 858 - 4634
Email: Cas407@earthlink.net

March 4 & 5 - FLORIDA

Fantasy AVS AVS Judged Show/Sale
Oak Hill Hospital Enrichment Center
11375 Cortez Blvd.
Brooksville, FL
Mar 4 - 11am - 5pm
Mar 5 - noon - 5pm
Info: Thad Scaggs (352) 398 - 1679

March 4 & 5 - FLORIDA

Central AVS Show/Sale
Orlando, FL
Mar 3 - Noon - 4pm
Mar 4 - 10am - 4pm
Info: (407) 858 - 6434
Email: Cas407@earthlink.net

March 11 - CALIFORNIA

South Coast AVS/Tulana AVS
Combined Judged Show/Sale
South Coast Botanic Garden
26500 Crenshaw Blvd.
Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA
Info: Jacquie Eisenhut
(310) 325 - 2993
Email: jeisenhut@hotmail.com

March 17 & 18 - TENNESSEE

Memphis AVS Spring Show/Sale
Mar 17 - 9am - 6pm
Mar 18 - 9am - 5pm
Goldsmith Civic Garden Center
750 Cherry Road
Memphis, TN
Info: (901) 377 - 9116
(901) 386 - 0210
Email: sodakfuzzy@worldnet.att.net

March 18 & 19 - TEXAS

First Austin AVS Show/Sale
Austin Area Garden Center
Zilker Botanical Garden
2200 Barton Springs Rd.
Austin, TX
Mar 18 - 10am - 4:30pm
Mar 19 - 10am - 4pm
Info: Susan Hill (512) 292 - 9095
Email: skhill15@austin.rr.com

March 18 & 19 - NEBRASKA

Omaha AV & Gesneriad Society
Annual Show/Sale
Mullhally's Nursery
3615 North 120th St.
Omaha, NE
Mar 18 - 10am - 6pm
Mar 19 - 10am - 5pm
Info: Joyce Stork (402) 721 - 1478
Email: kents@tvsonline.net

March 24 & 25 - NEW JERSEY

Union County Chapter AVS
Show/Sale
All Saints Episcopal Church Parish Hall
SSO Park Ave., Scotch Plains, NJ
Mar 24 - 6pm - 9pm
Mar 25 - 9am - 3pm
Info: (732) 254 - 8520
(908) 245 - 7818
Email: j.riemer@comcast.net

March 25 & 26 - NEW YORK

Sweet Water AVS 31st
Annual Judged Show/Sale
West Sayville Fire Department Hall
Montauk Hwy. & Atlantic Ave.
Mar 25 - 2pm - 5pm
Mar 26 - Noon - 5pm
Info: (631) 581 - 8116
\$1.50 Donation

March 30 - CALIFORNIA

Town & Country AVS Judged
Show/Sale
Redlands Church of
Christ Friendship Hall
1000 Roosevelt Rd.
Redlands, CA
Hours: Noon - 5pm
Info: Anita Richardson
(909) 794 - 2771
Email: Fred.Anita@juno.com

March 31 & April 1 - ILLINOIS

Illinois AVS Show/Convention
Four Points Sheraton/Rock Island
(309) 794 - 1212
226 17th St., Rock Island, IL
Info: Judi Du Pont (815) 695 - 5924
Email: 2manyhobbies@sbcglobal.net
John Juegenheimer (309) 441 - 6849
Email: uggie2@aol.com

April 1 & 2 - CALIFORNIA

Capital City AVS Show/Sale
Sacramento Garden & Arts Center
3330 McKinley Blvd.
Sacramento, CA
Apr 1 - 2pm - 5pm
Apr 2 - 10am - 4pm
Info: Lynn Lombard@worldnet.att.net

April 1 - CONNECTICUT

Windsor AVS Annual Judged Show/Sale
St. Gabriel's Church
379 Broad St., Windsor, CT
Hours: 9am - 5pm
Info: Nancy Hayes (860) 242 - 1062
Email: violetnancy@comcast.net
http://instafax.comcast/wavs/

April 1 - NEBRASKA

Lincoln AVS Spring Exhibition/Sale
St. Mark's Methodist Church
8550 Pioneers Blvd.
Lincoln, NE
Hours: 10am - 5pm
Info: Joyce Stork (402) 721 - 1478
Email: kents@tvsonline.net

April 1 & 2 - NEW JERSEY

AVC of Morris County
Annual Judged Show/Sale
Frelinghuysen Arboretum
53 East Hanover Ave.
Morristown, NJ
Apr 1 - 1:30pm - 5pm
Apr 2 - 11am - 4pm
Info: Jill Fischer (908) 464 - 4417
Email: HFJG.Fischer@comcast.net

April 1 & 2 - NEW YORK

Long Island AVS Display/Sale
John A. Anderson Recreation Center
111 North Oceanside Rd.
Rockville Centre, NY
Apr 1 - 2pm - 5pm
Apr 2 - Noon - 5pm
Info: Dorothy Vogt (651) 225 - 1741
Diane Lohan (651) 422 - 7295
Lois Szostak
Email: loisas@optonline.net

April 1 & 2 - COLORADO

Rocky Mountain AVS Show/Sale
Denver Botanical Gardens
Mitchell and Gates Hall
1005 York St.
Denver, CO
Apr 1 - 1pm - 4:30pm
Apr 2 - 10am - 4pm
Info: Barbara Trotsky
(303) 757 - 1566
Email: barbtrotsky@msn.com

April 1 & 2 - CONNECTICUT

Thimble Islands AVS Judged Show/Sale
Canoë Brook Center
11 Cherry Hill Rd.
Branford, CT
Hours: Noon - 3pm
Info: Madeline Clem (203) 481 - 9455

April 1 & 2 - MISSOURI

SHO-ME AVC 21st
Annual Judged Show/Sale
Loose Park Garden Center
5200 Pennsylvania
Kansas City, MO
(816) 784 - S300
Apr 1 - 9am - 4pm
Apr 2 - 10am - 3pm
Info: Dick & Shirley Faris
(816) 720 - 3519
Email: dickrich2001@yahoo.com

April 7 & 8 - IOWA

Quad Cities AVS Annual Show/Sale
NorthPark Mall
Welcome Way & Kimberly Rd.
Davenport, IA
Apr 7 - 10am - 9pm
Apr 8 - 9am - 5pm
Info: Judi Du Pont (815) 695 - 5924
Email: 2manyhobbies@sbcglobal.net
John Juegenheimer (309) 441 - 6849
Email: uggie2@aol.com

April 8 & 9 - NEW YORK

African Violet and Gesneriad
Society of New York
Annual Judged Show/Sale
Walden Galleria Mall
Galleria Dr., Cheektowaga, NY
Apr 8 - 10am - 8pm
Apr 9 - 10am - 3:30pm
Info: Mike Kotarski
Email: mmk@niagara.edu

April 8 & 9 - NEW MEXICO

Albuquerque AVC Spring Show/Sale
Garden Center of Albuquerque
10120 Lomas Blvd.
Albuquerque, NM
Apr 8 - 2pm - 5pm
Apr 9 - 10am - 4pm
Info: Agatha Garrison
(505) 384 - 5026
Margaret Schmeier (505) 836 - 1228

April 13 & 14 - SOUTH CAROLINA

First AVS of Spartanburg Display/Sale
Woodland Heights Recreation Center
1216 John B. White Blvd.
Spartanburg, SC
Apr 13 - 10am - 6pm
Apr 14 - 10am - until sold out
Info: Ernestine Wright
(864) 529 - 0817
Email: Ernwright@aol.com

April 15 & 16 - MICHIGAN

Michigan State AVS
Display/Sale
Matthaei Botanical Gardens
1800 Dixboro Rd.
Ann Arbor, MI
Apr 15 - 10am - 4:30pm
Apr 16 - 10am - 2pm
Info: Ingrid Bowman
(248) 698 - 3628

April 22 - NEW JERSEY

AVC of Burlington County, NJ Judged
Show/Sale
Central Baptist Church
Maple Ave., Palmyra, NJ
Hours: 11am - 5pm
Info: Blanch Renz (856) 797 - 3664

April 22 - WASHINGTON

Seattle AVS Annual Show/Sale
Center for Urban Horticulture
3501 NE 41st St.
Seattle, WA
Hours: Noon - 4:30
Info: (206) 725 - 6494

April 22 & 23 - MONTREAL, QUEBEC, CANADA

Société des Saintpaulia de Montreal
Judged Show/Sale
Chalet du parc Maisonneuve
4601 Sherbrooke St. East
Montreal, Quebec, Canada
Both Days: 10am - 6pm
Info: Monique Beaucage
(514) 990 - S701
Email: saintpauliamontreal@hotmail.com

April 22 & 23 - NEW YORK

AVS of Rochester Annual Show/Sale
Perinton Square Mall
6720 Pittsford-Palmyra Rd.
(Routes 250 & 31)
Perinton, NY
Apr 22 - Noon - 6pm
Apr 23 - 11am - 4pm
Info: Irwin Wagman (585) 381 - 6384
Email: irwinwag@aol.com

April 23 - ONTARIO, CANADA

Toronto AVS Annual Show/Sale
Toronto Botanical Gardens
777 Lawrence Ave. E.
Toronto, Ontario
Hours: 11am - 4pm
Info: Louise McPherson
(416) 445 - 7774
Email: lulumac@sympatico.ca
Admission \$2

April 28 - 30 - VIRGINIA

Richmond AVS Show/Sale
Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden
1800 Lakeside Ave., Richmond, VA
Apr 28 - 9am - 5pm
Apr 29 - 9am - 5pm
Apr 30 - Noon - 5pm
Info: Vicki Carr
Email: vbcarr@gmail.com

April 28 & 29 - NEW JERSEY

Bergen County AVS 49th Annual
Show/Sale
Old North Reformed Church
Washington & Madison Avenues
Dumont, NJ
Apr 28 - 3pm - 9pm
Apr 29 - 9am - 5pm
Info: Jennifer Howland
(973) 557 - 1971
Email: jhowland@xiewadu.com

April 29 & 30 - MASSACHUSETTS

Bay State AVS Annual Judged
Show/Sale
Tower Hill Botanic Garden
11 French Hill
Boylston, MA
Hours: 10am - 5pm
Info: suzannen.ress@bankofAmerica.com

April 28 - ALBERTA, CANADA

Stampede City AVS Annual Show/Sale
Northland Village Mall
Calgary, Alberta
Apr 28 - 10am - 9pm
Apr 29 - 9:30am - 4pm
Info: Winston Goretzky
(403) 241 - 8500
Visit our website for
updated information:
www3.telus.net/scavs/

April 29 - WISCONSIN

Sundowners & Crosstown AVS Annual
Combined Sale
Olbrich Botanical Gardens
3330 Atwood Ave.
Madison, WI
Hours: 9am - 3pm
Info: Alice Peterson (608) 833 - S552
Email: peters56@tds.net

April 29 & 30 - MISSOURI

Unpredictables AVS of Blue Springs
23rd Annual Show/Sale
Grain Valley Historical Society Bldg.
Apr 29 - 10am - 5pm
Apr 30 - 10am - 4pm
Info: Fred Inbody (816) 373 - 6915
Email: kskd1@juno.com

April 29 & 30 - CONNECTICUT

Nautagonic AVS Judged Show/Sale
Homewood/Hilton Suites
6905 Main St., Stratford, CT
(exit S3 off Merritt Pkwy.)
Apr 29 - 1pm - 4pm
Apr 30 - 10am - 3pm
Info: Donald Goodwin
(860) 283 - 5311

May 5 & 6 - NEW JERSEY

Central Jersey AVS Show/Sale
1st Baptist Church
232 Main St.
Matawan, NJ
May 5 - 3pm - 7pm
May 6 - 10am - 4pm
Info: Jan Murasko (732) 821 - 8641
Email: jmurasko@comcast.com

May 6 - VIRGINIA/WASHINGTON, DC METRO AREA

Old Dominion AVS Judged Show/Sale
Meadowlark Botanical
Gardens Visitor Center
9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court
Vienna, VA
Hours: 10am - 4pm
Info: Donna Christianson
(703) 250 - 0944
Email: contact@odavs.com
www.odavs.com

May 6 & 7 - WISCONSIN

Oshkosh Violet Society 26th Annual
Judged Show/Sale
St. Josephat Parish Center Hall
1532 Spruce St.
Oshkosh, WI
May 6 - 10am - 4:30pm
May 7 - 9:30am - 3pm
Info: Cathy Heider (920) 685 - S262
Kevin Denger (920) 426 - 3764

May 6 & 7 - OHIO

Cincinnati AVS Show/Sale
Eastgate Mall
Cincinnati, OH
May 6 - Noon - 9pm
May 7 - Noon - 5pm
Info: Penny Wichman
(859) 689 - S570
Email: pennypwic@aol.com
Karen Malott (513) 232 - 8497
Email: kmalott@cinci.rr.com

May 6 & 7 - NEW YORK

AVS of Syracuse 55rd Annual Show
Beaver Lake Nature Center
8477 East Mud Lake Rd.
Baldwinsville, NY
May 6 - 1pm - 6pm
May 7 - 9am - 4:30pm
(\$2.00 parking fee)

May 12 & 13 - OHIO

Parmatown AVS Show/Sale
Parmatown Mall
7899 Ridgewood Dr.
Parma, OH
May 12 - 12:30pm - 9pm
May 13 - 9am - 6pm
Info: Martha Bell (330) 483 - 3546
Email: mbell1177@msn.com

May 13 - OREGON

Portlandia Violet Club Display/Sale
Jantzen Beach Mall
Portland, OR
Hours: 10am - 8pm
Info: Blanche Bunker
(503) 761 - 7861

May 13 & 14 - ILLINOIS

Late Bloomers AVS Display/Sale
Colonial Village Mall
1240 South Alpine Rd.
Rockford, IL
May 13 - 10am - 5pm
May 14 - 11am - 5pm
Info: Carole Zimmerman
(608) 325 - 2250



Qualifications for Judging

by Bob Green

In the AVSA Handbook, page 82, the qualifications of an AVSA judge are discussed. Those qualifications are: knowledge, judgment, experience, fairness, courage, tact and kindness. Let's examine each qualification briefly.

Knowledge: We must keep ourselves informed by constantly studying the AVSA Handbook and the *African Violet Magazine* (AVM), not only for judging information, but also to keep informed on new varieties. We should also try growing different African violet varieties and the other gesneriads to show perfection, so that we are better equipped to judge them. To grow or merely maintain the same tried and true plants year after year does not fill the bill.

Judgment: Since there cannot be a written formula or rule to cover every conceivable situation that may arise in judging, we must constantly keep in mind that both exhibitor and judge are human beings and apply common sense when the circumstances warrant. For example, when judging a particular section of plants in a show, we discover that the foliage is covered with soot. We must make a judgment call that the plants are not dirty because of the exhibitor, but probably because of a malfunctioning air vent over the plants, and judge the plants as if the soot were not present.

Experience: If we don't grow show plants and enter them in shows, then we shouldn't judge them. Also, if we don't ever enter designs in a show, then we shouldn't judge them. The same goes for the other gesneriads. Experience is the best teacher. We cannot learn by not doing.

Fairness: We cannot let personal preferences enter our judging. We cannot allow anything other than the merits of

the exhibits to determine how we judge. We must judge each exhibit as we would want our own exhibits to be judged. We must not only be fair, but must also avoid any appearance of unfairness. If the rare occasion arises and we are forced to judge our own exhibits, then we must be the mute member of the panel. There are occasions when we must not judge any part of a show. If you are the show chair or a member of the judges, entry, or classification committee, you must not judge at all under any circumstances. If you have a collection, you must not judge in the collection classes. The AVSA Handbook says "should not." And, of course, you must not judge any part of a show if you have many exhibits entered.

Courage: We must have the strength of character to refuse to give unmerited awards; but, on the other hand, be compassionate enough to give awards based on merit and beauty, rather than deny giving awards because of technicalities.

Tact: We must always conduct ourselves so we leave a professional and pleasing image with show management, exhibitors, clerks and fellow judges. We must avoid saying or writing anything on entry cards that is less than constructive.

Kindness: We must be tolerant of other judges on our panels and consider the minority view, but support the majority view. We must be friendly towards each other, clerks, show management and exhibitors. We must guard against aloofness and a "know-it-all" attitude. And, we must never criticize other judges and their decisions.

Reprinted from *The Florida Connection*



The Sheraton Bloomington Hotel

(Formerly Radisson South)

by Ruth Bann

The rooms are spacious and equipped with the bed of your dreams -The Sweet Sleeper Bed. A coffee maker is handy for an early morning cup of coffee. Cable TV and a Data Line are included in each room. Non-smoking rooms are available. There are restaurants on site and twenty-four hour room service.

A large adjacent parking area provides ample parking for your vehicle. Shuttle Service is at your disposal twenty-four hours a day.

Approximately fifteen eating establishments are within easy walking distance. Some of these are: TGI Friday's, Burger King, Eddington's, Cheetah Pizza, Chez Colette, and D.Q. Grill and Chill, to list just a few.

Golf Courses are close by, and more shopping areas are at the Galleria Mall and Southdale Mall. Target and Gabberts are also in the area.

The Sheraton offers you a wonderful place to make your stay at the Convention comfortable and more enjoyable.

In the Beginning. . .1947-1949 African Violet Magazines

by Barbara Pershing

While working on the *African Violet Magazine* Index for the AVSA web site, I started reading the early issues of the AVM and felt an idea for an article germinating in the back of my mind. Sorry if this delays the completion of the Index on the Web! *(Note: My anecdotal comments are in italics!)*

The first issue of the AVM (1947), following the November 1946 organization of AVSA, consisted of fourteen pages of black and white text – no photographs. Mrs. O.E. Keller, first president of AVSA, in her welcome column, reported that a classification committee had been formed to start working on the classification of the varieties and a plan of registration through which “an accurate record can be kept of the names and related identifying description of the various species and varieties.” At that time, there were many seedlings on the market; many alike but with different names. One article speculated that there were more than 100 different varieties. *(And now we have over 10,000 named varieties; thank goodness for their foresight).*

Mrs. Keller reported on the plans for the first National Show to be held October 9 and 10, 1947 in Atlanta and noted that there would be competition in separate variety groups, and novelty niche exhibits would include arrangements for home decoration and mantles. *(The category in our schedules for unusual containers had an early beginning!)*. New eligibility rules stated that only single crown plants would be exhibited; however, there would be a separate class for multiple crown plants to be judged irrespective of variety *(For those who didn't know what to do with suckers and multiple crowns?)*. All African violet growers were eligible to exhibit. The first annual meeting of AVSA would be held in conjunction with the show and prominent speakers would take part in the programs. The next issue reported that 150 members from 20 states attended, and 77 exhibitors showed 286 plants of 62 varieties. The second annual convention and show was held in Cincinnati in 1948 with much excitement for the new varieties and anticipation of when they would be available to growers *(Some things never change!)*.

The Homing Pigeon Department, born in this first issue, might be considered the first regular column in the AVM. Anyone could become an active member in the ‘circular units’ that were being formed. Each unit was composed of ten African violet growers from around the country, each person adding to the letter with a 3-day grace period to post their contribution and the 10th person posted the letter to the Director. The object was to be of a constructive nature and written essentially on African violets – no social messages. Members were not required to be a member of the National Society, but 100 percent support was preferred, and it was noted that interest is a probable step toward this goal. One person described this as the “friendly handshake” that extends across the coun-

try. *(Things have changed a bit from the 3-cent postage letter that took several weeks to circulate to the internet groups and e-mails where we have instant access to information from fellow African violet enthusiasts around the world!)* There were over 1000 correspondents participating in 1949 and after July 31, 1949, all members had to be members of the Society. Membership in AVSA was \$3 with over 3200 members at the end of 1949.

In the first issue, Mrs. Keller wrote an article giving a brief history of the discovery of the African violet and gave basic culture information for growers. Culture topics she included were: **soil** – 3 parts heavy black soil, 1 part peat, 1 part rotted manure, 1 part compost or rotted leaves and sand; **exposure** – African violets like east or north windows; **temperature** – ideal is 60 to 75 degrees; **watering** – test soil with finger and if dry to touch add water; **feeding** – they are heavy feeders but if soil is rich they won't need feeding for six months; **insect and diseases** – control mealy bug with alcohol on cotton rolled on end of toothpick touching each insect. Cyclamen mite was new to many and very destructive. Treatment was to use hot (110° F) water bath or sodium selenate.

She noted that one of the frequent questions was. “Will there be a yellow African violet?” Her answer: “It wouldn't surprise me to see a yellow violet in the near future as there are yellow blossoms in other gesneriads.” *(We are still waiting!)*.

The first question and answer column was “Just in Brief” by Inquisitive. *(Inquisitive was the editor of the AVM)*. The yellow AV question appeared again. *(People were really anxious for a yellow blossom!)* Another interesting question: “Will the pink or white or both revert to blue by being planted in the same pot?” *(Obviously this person had experienced the instability and/or sporting of violets.)*

It was noted that there were a number of local organizations functioning at the time AVSA was organized, and this was evident in subsequent early issues of the AVM. In 1948, eighteen local societies were “flourishing” in fourteen different states. Each issue included many pages devoted to club shows and club meetings. The fourth issue included black and white drawings and photos, and in 1949, pictures taken at club shows and events started to appear. *(I love the hats they wore then!)* In 1949, a Scale of Points for judging was printed in the AVM “to educate members in growing and showing.”

The lone advertisement in the first issue was for Starr Dahlia Gardens. Tinari Floral Gardens appeared in the second issue with a small two inch ad, but soon they included a full-page advertisement on the back page of the magazine. In 1948, you could buy a complete collection of six DuPont Hybrids for \$12.00 from Tinari Greenhouses.

Cyclamen mites were the most written about of pests.

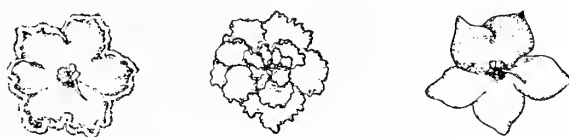
Nematodes were another problem, probably because of the use of garden soil and compost in most of the soil recipes. Ingredients in the soil formulas listed in these first issues were leaf mold, garden soil or black loam, and rotted manure. Some had added vermiculite, charcoal, bone meal, peat and/or sharp sand. One article told how to make charcoal, and several references were made to sterilizing soil, including one hint that told how to use a pressure cooker to do this! *(I still remember the terrible smell that permeated the whole house when my mother 'cooked' potting soil in the oven! Sixty years later we are still discussing what is the best formula for potting soil, but most of us buy our 'soilless mix' in bags and don't worry about sterilizing.)* Thrips were a problem, and a new insecticide, Parathion, was being used; however, a caution was made that "word lately received to the effect that it is extremely poisonous. . ." *(That, DDT, and other pesticides being used with no controls or warning labels.)*

There were several wannabe poets who submitted their offerings to the AVM *(They made good fillers!)* and, people wrote about their personal experiences with growing, propagating (many started leaves in water), displaying, and sharing their violets with others. Most were window growers but a few were starting to use fluorescent lighting, and they were using innovative ways to make room for their growing collections. Some of the hints and tips are pertinent today, but some were, well – interesting! Two articles told how to use chicken feeders as pots/planters/propagation trays!

In 1949, sponsoring groups, acting on behalf of AVSA, collected African violet plants for veterans in hospitals. An article, 'Violets for Veterans', which encouraged clubs or groups to sponsor a hospital and distribute plants with a goal of "one plant per man", noted that there were 129 veterans hospitals with over 100,000 patients in the United States. *(For those of you too young to remember or have forgotten your history, these were World War II veterans.)*

The ten issues of AVM from Volume 1, Number 1 (1947) through Volume 3, Number 2 (December 1949) gave insight into the way things were when the African Violet Society of America was in its infancy. So much has changed in 60 years *(Yes, AVSA was formed sixty years ago this year.)* and yet some things never change. We are still waiting for that really "yellow" violet, we anticipate the new varieties each convention, we still fight thrips and mites; but, thank goodness for the safer chemicals to fight pests, soilless potting mixes, and hybridizers who are constantly striving for new and better . . .

By the time you read this article, the Index for these issues will be on the AVSA Web site. Time to get busy on the 1950 and 1960 issues. The AVM Web Index is complete from 1970 through 2005. Please note that the AVSA Web site searchable Index lists articles of interest to researchers. Show, club, convention information, and other time specific features such as registration reports and AVSA business minutes are not in this electronic index.



Sixty Years Ago...

Almost sixty years ago, on a Friday, the evening of November 8, 1946, a group of ten enthusiastic growers of African violets met in Atlanta, Georgia, following the first day of an enormously successful African violet show. They gathered in the storage room of the H.G. Hastings Company, amid a stock of seed and fertilizer. At that meeting, a suggestion was made to form a society. A temporary organization was then set up to explore the possibility of establishing a permanent society.

These people got together because of their common interest in African violets. The Hastings Company, a horticultural supply firm, had planned the show to promote the sale of African violets. The show had been publicized in *Flower Grower* magazine a month

in advance, bringing inquires from twenty-two states. An estimated eight to ten thousand people viewed the show before the doors closed. The unexpected attendance reflected the growing popularity of African violets.



With the successful show serving as an inspiration, the temporary organization met again on November 9 and elected and installed officers for the coming year. Charter membership began with those attending the meeting, then, was made available to others. Almost eight months later, there were 250 members from more than twenty states.

*We are on our way
to 60 years of AVSA!
An Anniversary to Celebrate!*

Saturday Luncheon Auction

We need the help of our members, affiliates, hybridizers and commercials to make this auction successful. All monies raised will benefit AVSA.

Won't you consider donating a violet-related item or craft to this coming auction? Hybridizers – donations of supplies, newly introduced plants, or cuttings, as always, would be very much appreciated

Your help insures the success of this auction. Anyone making a donation will receive special notice, and all donations and

contributors will be acknowledged in the AVM. Remember you must attend the luncheon in order to attend the auction. Won't you join us?

Please let me know if you will be donating any items. A description of the item should be included with your notice. Many thanks for your help and support.

Edna Rourke, 99 Old Stratford Road, Shelton, CT 06484-6129 (203) 926-9716, email Apapillon@aol.com

Make
Easter
Special



Thrips

by Carolee Carter

From the AVSA Web Site *Frequently Asked Questions*



Thrips are a nuisance. Period. It's easy to get them and a pain to get rid of them. They are tiny insects that reproduce rapidly and thrive on pollen and new plant tissue. They are found on just about all outdoor flowers, and it's easy to transport them on your clothing, from flowers you bring inside, or on your pets where they then leap off and seek out another favorite restaurant – your African violets.

They particularly love the darker blossoms because the pollen sacs stand out so dramatically. The first sign of thrips is the presence of pollen grains all over the petals of the blossom. Plants that are heavily infested with these pests show white streaks or "scars" on the leaves and blossoms. The blossoms themselves are also distorted by becoming smaller, and the natural color is affected.

There are many products on the market used to control thrips. In any case, you must be diligent in the treatment. Whatever product you use, you need to use it a minimum of three times, about a week apart. Thrips multiply rapidly, and the product you use will destroy those that are living; but another crop of thrips eggs in the soil will be hatching within days. So, be prepared to do this; otherwise, you'll be right back where you started.

Avid is a very good product that people use (1/4 tsp. to a qt. of warm water is my dosage). However, it is extremely expensive. There may be vendors who sell small bottles of it. Look at the vendor list in the AVSA.org site. Cape Cod Violetry and Florals of Fredericks come to mind as a source for the smaller quantities.

There are other, less expensive products you may want to try. Conserve has been touted as a great product, and some use Marathon. Some of the products I swore by have been taken off the market. And, some people swear by a head lice shampoo called RID, using 1/2 tsp. to a quart of warm water, with the direction of adding the RID to the water, not the water to the RID. Your local garden center will also have products to try. Safers Insecticidal Soap is a product for those who do not like the toxicity of the more harsh chemicals used in Avid and Conserve. Whatever product you try, be sure that the water is warm, even hot. Cold water will spot your leaves. Do not return your plants to strong light until the water droplets have evaporated. Once you get rid of them, be diligent in inspecting your plants frequently.



Saintpaulia diplotricha 3085

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Saintpaulia diplotricha 3085 is one of several clones of *S. diplotrichia* from the Uppsala Botanical Gardens in Uppsala, Sweden. The records for *S. diplotricha* 3085 show that it was collected in 1987 on a west facing vertical cliff at an elevation of 260 meters (approximately 850 feet). The collection was made in the East Usambara Mountains in the Muheza District in Tanzania. The collectors were S.T. Iverson, M. Steiner and R.P.C.

Temu. The specimen record is number 86373 in the Uppsala herbarium. Leaf cuttings were sent to Iowa State University in 1992. I obtained my cutting from ISU in 1996.

This is another species clone collected by S.T. Iverson, but may have been labeled as St. Iverson. As noted in earlier articles, if you have any species plants in your collection that have a "St. Iverson" in their name or label, please recognize and correct this the name to "S.T. Iverson".

S. diplotricha 3085 is a semiminature to small standard sized rosette plant that usually grows without suckering. The leaves are round or nearly round, dark green and are approximately 4 cm (1 1/2 inches) in diameter. The leaf blades are shallowly toothed on the lower half of the leaf blade. The leaves have a dark red reverse. The petioles are reddish and may grow to several centimeters in length on the mature leaves. The species name "diplotricha" means two types of leaf hairs. A few long hairs are present that are weakly erect. The short hairs are many times more numerous and are erect. The overall leaf hair formula is long erect, short erect (LESE). The leaves are not obviously hairy as compared to other *Saintpaulia* species and have a waxy or plastic appearance.

The flowers of *S. diplotricha* 3085 are about 1-2 cm in diameter and are found 3-5 per peduncle. The flowers are medium to dark blue in color. The peduncles are wiry, but



generally support the flowers above the foliage. This species clone is moderately floriferous and may have 12-16 open flowers at any time.

S. diplotricha 3085 has been an easy species to grow in my collection. I usually treat it as a warm growing species, but it has also been tolerant of the growing conditions on the lower shelves. This species clone is one of my favorites as it stays relatively small and rarely suckers. It would be easy to

shape *S. diplotricha* 3085 for show. The main problem is that the leaves are circular and do not overlap well, producing gaps between the leaves. Perhaps growing this species clone at a higher light intensity would shorten the petioles of the leaves and produce fewer gaps. This plant has also been very disease free. I have never observed mildew on this species clone and the leaves do not seem to be damaged by spraying.

I have not used *S. diplotricha* 3085 in hybridizing, but I feel that it would make an excellent choice for a species to use as a parent. The plant size is small and forms a rosette easily. The flower count of this species is fairly good and the blooms are held above the foliage. The lack of mildew problems on this species clone suggests a high degree of natural resistance. This trait may be passed on to offspring and could be valuable in hybridization programs. Perhaps crossing this species with miniatures would produce some disease resistance hybrids with closely spaced round leaves.

In conclusion, *S. diplotricha* 3085 is a species clone that will appeal to many growers. It is modest in size and produces flowers freely. The leaves are glossy and their round shape is attractive. If you have a limited amount of space in your growing area for the *Saintpaulia* species, *S. diplotricha* 3085 would be a good choice for your collection.

**All Library Requests Must Be Made in
Writing to the African Violet Society of America Office**

Planting by Moon Signs

Moon in Aries

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. Used for destroying noxious growths, weeds, pests, etc., and for cultivating.

Moon in Taurus

Productive and moist, earthy and feminine. Used for planting many crops, particularly potatoes and root crops, and when hardness is important. Also used for lettuce, cabbage, and similar leafy vegetables.

Moon in Gemini

Barren and dry, airy and masculine. Used for destroying noxious growths, weeds and pests, and for cultivation.

Moon in Cancer

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. This is the most productive sign, used extensively for planting and irrigation.

Moon in Leo

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. This is the most barren sign, used only for killing weeds and for cultivation.

Moon in Virgo

Barren and moist, earthy and feminine. Good for cultivation and destroying weeds and pests.

Moon in Libra

Semi-fruitful and moist, airy and masculine. Used for planting many crops and producing good pulp growth and roots. A very good sign for flowers and vines. Also used for seeding hay, corn fodder, etc.

Moon in Scorpio

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. Nearly as productive as Cancer; used for the same purposes. Especially good for vine growth and sturdiness.

Moon in Sagittarius

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. Used for planting onions, seeding hay, and for cultivation.

Moon in Capricorn

Productive and dry, earthy and feminine. Used for planting potatoes, tubers, etc.

Moon in Aquarius

Barren and dry, airy and masculine. Used for cultivation and destroying noxious growths, weeds, and pests.

Moon in Pisces

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. Used along with Cancer and Scorpio, especially good for root growth.

March Moon Table

Date	Sign	Element	Nature	Phase	
1 Wed. 4:18 am	Aries	Fire	Barren	1st	
2 Thu.	Aries	Fire	Barren	1st	
3 Fri. 5:22 am	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruitful	1st	
4 Sat.	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruitful	1st	
5 Sun. 9:37 am	Gemini	Air	Barren	1st	
6 Mon.	Gemini	Air	Barren	2nd	3:16 pm
7 Tue. 5:38 pm	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	2nd	
8 Wed.	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	2nd	
9 Thu.	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	2nd	
10 Fri. 4:42 am	Leo	Fire	Barren	2nd	
11 Sat.	Leo	Fire	Barren	2nd	
12 Sun. 5:23 pm	Virgo	Earth	Barren	2nd	
13 Mon.	Virgo	Earth	Barren	2nd	
14 Tue.	Virgo	Earth	Barren	Full	6:35 pm
15 Wed. 6:12 am	Libra	Air	Semi-fruitful	3rd	
16 Thu.	Libra	Air	Semi-fruitful	3rd	
17 Fri. 5:59 pm	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	3rd	
18 Sat.	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	3rd	
19 Sun.	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	3rd	
20 Mon. 3:43 am	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	3rd	
21 Tue.	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	3rd	
22 Wed. 10:36 am	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruitful	4th	2:10 pm
23 Thu.	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruitful	4th	
24 Fri. 2:21 pm	Aquarius	Air	Barren	4th	
25 Sat.	Aquarius	Air	Barren	4th	
26 Sun. 3:33 pm	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	4th	
27 Mon.	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	4th	
28 Tue. 3:31 pm	Aries	Fire	Barren	4th	
29 Wed.	Aries	Fire	Barren	New	5:15 am
30 Thu. 4:00 pm	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruitful	1st	
31 Fri.	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruitful	1st	

April Moon Table

Date	Sign	Element	Nature	Phase	
1 Sat. 6:49 pm	Gemini	Air	Barren	1st	
2 Sun.	Gemini	Air	Barren	1st	
3 Mon.	Gemini	Air	Barren	1st	
4 Tue. 2:15 am	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	1st	
5 Wed.	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	2nd	8:01 am
6 Thu. 12:25 pm	Leo	Fire	Barren	2nd	
7 Fri.	Leo	Fire	Barren	2nd	
8 Sat.	Leo	Fire	Barren	2nd	
9 Sun. 12:58 am	Virgo	Earth	Barren	2nd	
10 Mon.	Virgo	Earth	Barren	2nd	
11 Tue. 1:46 pm	Libra	Air	Semi-fruitful	2nd	
12 Wed.	Libra	Air	Semi-fruitful	2nd	
13 Thu.	Libra	Air	Semi-fruitful	Full	12:40 pm
14 Fri. 1:08 am	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	3rd	
15 Sat.	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	3rd	
16 Sun. 10:19 am	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	3rd	
17 Mon.	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	3rd	
18 Tue. 5:13 pm	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruitful	3rd	
19 Wed.	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruitful	3rd	
20 Thu. 9:56 pm	Aquarius	Air	Barren	4th	11:28 pm.
21 Fri.	Aquarius	Air	Barren	4th	
22 Sat.	Aquarius	Air	Barren	4th	
23 Sun. 12:43 am	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	4th	
24 Mon.	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	4th	
25 Tue. 2:12 am	Aries	Fire	Barren	4th	
26 Wed.	Aries	Fire	Barren	4th	
27 Thu. 3:27 am	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruitful	New	3:44 pm
28 Fri.	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruitful	1st	
29 Sat. 5:58 am	Gemini	Air	Barren	1st	
30 Sun.	Gemini	Air	Barren	1st	

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FLORISTS' GLOXINIAS

SINNINGIA SPECIOSA

by Nancy Robitaille

Photos Courtesy of Mona Aman

The first Florists' *Gloxinia* you will ever have will probably be a full-sized plant purchased at the local greenhouse.

These beautiful, large growing sinningias are also available as tubers and as seed. The tubers of most hybrids are dark brown, rounded on one side and concave on the other. Tiny pink sprouts this will guide you for planting. If there are no sprouts, the rounded part is the portion that should be planted in soil. Sprouts emerge from the indented side.

February is a good time to pot tubers and to sow seed. Gloxinias have a programmed growing period. Stagger the potting of tubers to produce plants year round. Those set in early spring or even late winter will commence active growth and mature faster than fall-set tubers. When tubers are set in February, you should be assured of a wealth of bloom by late May or early June.

Setting the tuber:

Fill the pot 3/4 full with soil. Press in the tuber with a slight twisting motion and settle it firmly. Add enough soil to cover the tuber by three-quarters. Set the pot in a saucer of warm water and allow it to soak up as much water as needed. Give the tuber window light and wait for the first sprouts. The tuber should show sprouts in about three weeks.

Noted expert writer, Peggie Schulz, in her book, *GLOXINIAS AND HOW TO GROW THEM*, says, "When growing for show, only one sprout should be allowed to mature. Clip off other sprouts. Sprouts that are about an inch high can be saved and will potentially make another plant." According to the Handbook for Judges, however, gesneriads may be grown with one or more crowns.

The *Gloxinias* form is a pot-hugging roundness. Gloxinias need plenty of light to form a well-developed plant. If window grown, pots should be turned each day to provide sun equally on all sides.

Florists' gloxinias are actually from the *Sinningia* family. To differentiate these larger plants from other types of sinningias, we will continue to use their popular name, gloxinias.

In the 1950s a soil recipe would look similar to this:

"Soil should be rich, and porous. One part peat, leaf mold, rich garden loam, and clean sand is recommended."

It has since been discovered that garden loam may carry nematodes that devastate collections. So recommended soil for gloxinias should be modified. A good 1-1-1 formula mix of peat, vermiculite, and perlite will be adequate. In their natural habitat, gloxinias have deep layers of leaf mold, twigs and rich debris.

Pot size:

Medium sized, one-and-one-half to two inches in diameter plants should be potted in a four or five-inch pot. Larger tubers will take a six or seven-inch pot. Commercial growers say a tuber will last for four or five years, but growers of *Gloxinia* have been able to keep gloxinias growing for thirty years.

Buds will emerge on stems at the top of the plant and the leaf axils. Flowers stay crisp and attractive from ten days to two weeks. These will last longer if the plant is taken from the strong light of the window. Cut flowers will last for about eight days. Each plant will have from four to seven blossoms, while newer hybrids may have more. Slipper types are more free-flowering and may have twelve to fifteen or more blossoms, although this type of *Gloxinia* is more difficult to find in greenhouses.

Gloxinias grow well at 78 degrees temperature, although they enjoy a cooler temperature in evenings. They do very well in high humidity.

Watering:

Proper watering is essential to the *Gloxinia*. Tubers hold quite a bit of water, so this plant should take much less water than African violets. Use warm water and water either from the top or from the bottom. In cooler weather, gloxinias need less water. When drier air arrives with warmer temperatures, soil will dry out faster and more frequent watering will be necessary. The top of the soil may be covered with pebbles or Spanish moss that will decrease the watering job.

Over watering causes bud blast and root rot. Foliage may be washed with a spray of warm water, but be careful not to place in strong light when wet.

Plants may be placed outdoors, but watch for bugs when you bring them back inside. Watering will be different for plants outdoors as well.

Seed:

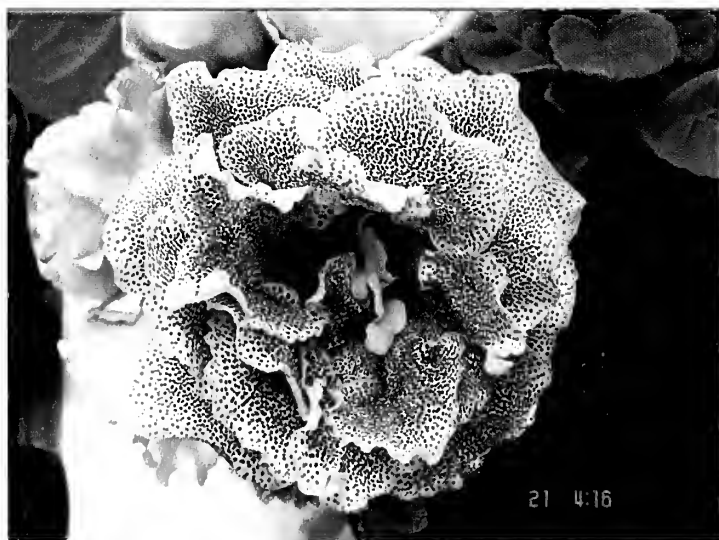
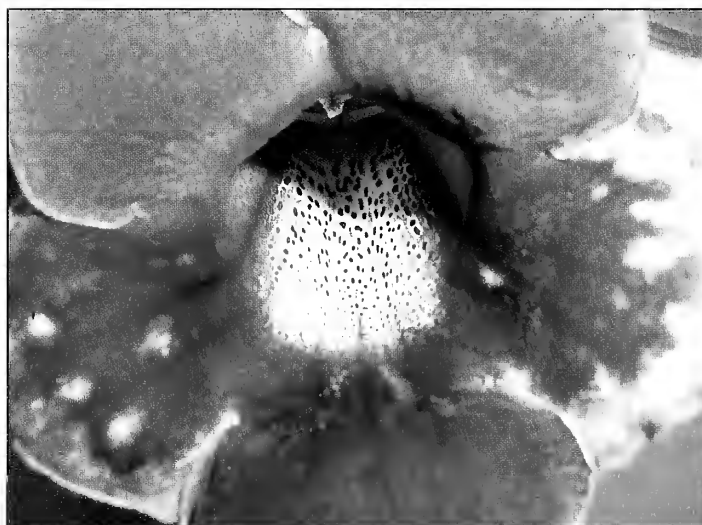
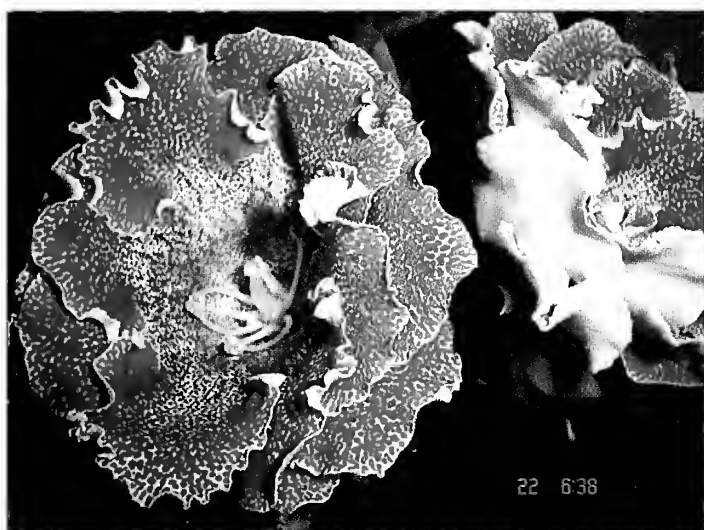
Seeds from gloxinias are similar to other *Gesneriad* seed; very fine, dust-like. Should seedlings die down, continue to water them slightly; the tuber is still alive and growing. A new plant may appear. Experts say that the best time to sow *Gloxinia* seeds is January or February.

Place about three to four inches under fluorescent light. Seeds often germinate in about one week. At three weeks old, seedlings can be transplanted easily and safely into individual containers. These transplanted seedlings should be grown close to light. Seedlings should bloom in five to five-and-one-half months from sowing.



As they grow, they can be placed lower from the lights until they are about eight inches from the florescent bulb.

When mature plants are growing under fluorescents, they do very little resting. After flowering, they should be cut back to the lowest two leaves and left to grow as they will. If leaves turn brown or go limp, it is best to cut off all green growth and keep soil on the dry side. The plant may start sprouting again within about a month if kept under lights.



Fertilizer:

No fertilizer is necessary for the first two months of a non-flowering glox. Then, offer light feedings every two weeks. Some growers use no fertilizer at all. Buds usually appear when the plant is three months old.

Heel cutting:

Leaves taken with a bit of the trunk remaining on the leaf stem will propagate into a new plant. The end of the stem may be split so the leaf will produce more than one tuber. Place stem in water and watch a tiny tuber grow. Roots appear in about ten days. When stem begins to broaden, place in good potting soil so tubers will grow. Leaves die down



before they send up new plants. Let the tuber grow. Mark the pot and continue to water slightly. In about two months, mouse ears begin to creep out of the soil. Place in good light and treat as a mature plant.

Leaves can be planted flat on the soil like Rex *Begonia* leaves. Place the leaf face down, towards the soil. Cut veins will produce roots, then tubers.

When next you see a large specimen of *Sinningia* or Florists' *Gloxinia*, don't pass it by. Try one! They're addictive, too.



AFRICAN VIOLETS: “Queen of Houseplants”

by Ken Froboese, Boerne, Texas

Contrary to common belief, a “green thumb” isn’t necessary to grow the country’s number one houseplant – the African violet. Success with any plant depends on how they are cared for, and anyone can grow violets and have them prosper, if they will follow a few suggestions as to their growing requirements.

Proper Light

The African violet is one of the very few houseplants that will bloom throughout the year – if it is given adequate light. Violets grow and blossom best if they are placed in the brightest, filtered light available. They should not be grown in a spot that receives direct sunlight, but one which receives a minimum of twelve hours of bright, indirect light every day.

Window light that is not shaded by a large tree, shrub, long roof overhang, or other obstruction such as solar film, will be best. It is important that violets growing in windows are turned at least every other day to keep them growing in a symmetrical, shapely manner. Plants whose leaves reach straight up are begging for more light, and plants whose leaves are lying in a flat pattern are usually receiving the correct light. A white or very light surface can cause leaves to grow downward, hugging the pot, due to reflected light.

If sufficient natural light is not available, fluorescent lighting is an ideal substitute to keep African violets continuously producing buds and blossoms throughout the year. A two-tube, four-foot fixture (such as a shop light) hung 8-10 inches above the foliage will do very well. Fluorescent fixtures with space between the two bulbs (8-10 inches) are ideal; however, they are quite a bit more expensive. Use of an appliance timer, set on twelve hours a day, will take care of uniform lighting, even if the family is away from home. Violets need at least eight hours of total darkness every day to utilize the fertilizer they receive.

Special plant “grow light” bulbs will make plants look and perform at their best. Less expensive cool white or warm white bulbs will keep violets growing and blooming; however, they will distort the true color of the blossoms. Bulbs should be dated and changed every 15 months. Fluorescent lighting is fairly inexpensive to use. Another advantage is that the light source comes from above, and plants seldom have to be turned to keep their shape. Light from the top also reaches the center of the crown where the buds form.

Watering

The most common problem in growing African violets is improper watering, which leads to root rot and eventually dead

plants. Always remember, just because a violet appears wilted or limp, it doesn’t mean that the plant is actually dry. If a plant is over-watered or has the beginning of crown or root rot, the foliage will have the same droopy and wilted appearance. The best method of determining if a plant needs water is by inserting the world’s best moisture meter, your finger, into the soil. If the plant feels too wet, set the pot on several folded paper towels to pull all excess water from the soil. Allow the plant to dry completely before putting it back on the regular watering schedule. If the plant is droopy because the soil is bone dry, give the plant a little water first to allow the shriveled roots to begin to recover, and then thoroughly water the plant about an hour later. Never use cold water as it can shock the plant and damage the foliage.

African violets may be watered in several ways – from the top, from the bottom, or by wick. When top watering, use room temperature water (not from a water softener) and add it to the pot until it runs out of the bottom, letting it finish dripping into the sink, a bucket, or pail before replacing it on its shelf or stand. It should not be allowed to sit in water.

In bottom watering, the plants are set in a saucer, bowl, or tray and approximately an inch of room temperature water is added to the container. Plants should be left in the water for only about five minutes, no longer! Allow the plants to finish dripping and replace them in their growing location.

A third, and perhaps the easiest method of watering, is by wick. The most important factor in wick watering is that the plants are potted in a lightweight, porous “soiless” African violet potting mix. Wicking into a heavy or packed soil will usually result in the plants retaining too much water, getting root rot, and dying. If a violet is not already equipped with a wick when you acquire it, assume that the plant is in a soil that is too heavy to wick, and it must be repotted into a lightweight violet potting mix before a wick can be inserted. The wick itself can be a nylon cord (such as fishing trot line cord), a piece of yarn, or even a very narrow piece of nylon stocking or panty hose. The wick should go into the soil all the way to the top but should not stick out above the soil. It should be covered with soil to prevent drying out.

In this method of watering, plants are placed above a reservoir, which can be as simple as a plastic margarine carton with a hole in its lid for the wick to be inserted, or a plastic or metal tray with a wire mesh above it for the wick to go through into the water. In all types of wick watering, the bottom of the violet’s pot must remain dry and the cord or wick kept wet at all times. If the bottom of the pot is allowed to touch or sit in the water, it will waterlog the soil and root rot may result. If the

wick is ever allowed to dry out completely, it should be replaced.

Potting

As previously discussed, African violets seem to grow best in a lightweight, porous "soiless" potting mix. Commercially packaged violet soil normally must be lightened with perlite to make it porous enough for the wick method of watering; however, the straight soil is fine for the top or bottom methods of watering. Never use garden type potting soil for violets.

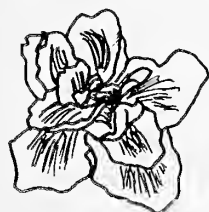
Most individuals tend to repot violets into a very large container to make use of a pretty decorative pot. African violets like to be slightly root-bound and do best in a pot of approximately one-third of the plant's leaf spread (width). Although clay and ceramic pots will do okay, plastic pots are the least expensive and seem to be used most often. Regular repotting, however, not always into a larger pot, should be done at least once each year to keep plants in a healthy condition. Remember to pack the soil when transplanting or repotting a violet. Tapping the pot on a table will help to settle the soil as it is being added to the pot. Packing the soil tends to take away the air spaces needed for healthy root growth.

When a violet is being transplanted from a small pot into a larger one (for example, from a 2 1/4" into a 3 1/2" pot), a little trick we use may be helpful. We call it the "pot in a pot" method. If wick watering, insert the wick into the larger pot first, allowing it to stick up above the rim of the pot. Place a small amount of violet soil (about 1/2") into the bottom of the pot and place an empty pot of the same size that your plant is currently growing in (2 1/4") on top of the soil, exactly in the middle of the larger pot. Spoon in your lightweight violet soil

between the inner pot and the outer pot, being careful not to pack the soil. When the soil is near the top of the pot, push the wick into the soil and cover it. Carefully move the inner pot back and forth and remove the smaller pot entirely. What's left should be a perfect hole for the root ball of the small plant. If necessary, a small amount of additional soil may be added. Water lightly to moisten the wick. This procedure keeps plants cleaner, is much less messy, and usually prevents leaves from being broken in the process.

When a violet hasn't been repotted for a long time, the loss of bottom foliage leaves what is usually referred to as a "neck" (between the healthy stems of the plant and the pot top). If the neck is only an inch or so long, this bare stem should be scraped (as one would a carrot) removing only a very thin portion of the rough outer layer of the main plant stem. Don't cut into the stem or permanent damage may result. After removing the root ball from the pot, use a very sharp knife and cut off the bottom inch or so of the soil. Cut straight across, keeping the rest of the roots and soil intact. Next, wash the pot thoroughly and dry it. Carefully place the root ball back into the clean pot, and the healthy foliage should now appear to be at or near the pot top. Add a little coarse vermiculite (3 parts) and coarse perlite (1 part) mixture to the top, right up next to the scraped stem. Complete the project by adding enough lightweight African violet soil to fill to the pot rim and water it lightly. Do not overwater because the root ball will normally be moist. New roots will form on the bare stem and after several months, your rejuvenated plant will be blooming again.

From the *LSAVC Newsletter*, publication of the
Lone Star AV Council, Texas



Root Rot

by Carolee Carter

From the AVSA Web Site *Frequently Asked Questions*

The roots of an African violet are very fine and require a soil that enables those roots to roam freely through it. If the soil has become compact, which can easily occur if the plant has not been repotted at least every six months, the roots then begin to become waterlogged, losing their ability to absorb either water or the nutrients in the older potting mix, and begin to rot.

This is the beginning of the fungus that will eventually destroy the plant. The leaves of the plant will start to wilt, and the plant will lose its vigor. The color of the leaves will be

"off"; and eventually, the fungus will take over the crown, and the entire plant will just collapse and die. The cure for this is to make sure that your potting mix is lightened with the addition of perlite and that you do not let the plant sit in water after you have watered it.

You must also not let the plant totally dry out because the fine roots will have a difficult time regaining their strength after they have dried. A happy medium is to water when the potting mix feels dry to the touch.

COUNTDOWN TO SHOW

by Sue Gardner

A show plant should have the foliage approximately three times the diameter of the pot. This will not be the case when first potted, but the plant will grow to those proportions in about eight weeks if the correct size pot is selected.

To encourage growth of great foliage, we need to fertilize correctly, give the plant sufficient light, and disbud.

1. Use a well balanced fertilizer or asogen fertilizer for the next few weeks. Avoid a fertilizer which derives much of the nitrogen from urea as this can cause a build up of ammonium salts.
2. Place your plant in the best available light. Natural light can grow good plants, so don't be discouraged if you have no fluorescent lights.
3. Disbud. Why disbud? Many new growers cannot contemplate taking all the flowers from their favorite plant. But if you want great show plants with a large head of flowers, disbudding is necessary for the following reasons:
 - a). A show plant needs to grow evenly. If it is flowering, the leaves can be distorted in shape or, grown unevenly around the flower stalks.
 - b). The disbudded plant grows larger in a short time. It cannot do this if it is putting its energy into flowering. When a plant blooms, most of its energy goes into the flowers so that the center leaves will be appreciably smaller. This means the plant will have a row of small leaves which look bad and lose points.
 - c). Disbudding produces a larger head of flowers when disbudding ceases.
 - d). Disbudding allows the owner to control the time of flowering. With a little care, the plant will be in full bloom at show time.

Complete Disbudding

Complete disbudding means all the flower stalks are removed from the plant for a set period of time. Stop disbudding at a set number of weeks before a show. You may disbud for six months before a show, only allowing a plant to start producing flower buds eight to ten weeks before the big day. Always allow a small plant to flower at least once to be sure it is flowering true to type.

Partial Disbudding

This is for those who cannot bear to be without flowers for any length of time. Every second or third forming bud or flower stalk is removed, allowing only a few flower stalks to develop and produce flowers. In this way, you may enjoy some flowers while causing minimum distortion to the leaf pattern. If you are serious about growing plants

for the show, however, you should really disbud completely.

How to Disbud

As vigorous flower stalks are produced only in the top three rows of leaves, it is best to remove flower stalks completely until five to six months before a show. You need to check your plants every ten days or so. As some varieties produce two bloom stalks in each leaf axil, it is better to cut the bloom stalk leaving a stub of about 5mm. This means you do not damage the second flower stalk and prevent it from developing.

If you find it too hard to disbud leaving a stub, or if you don't want to bother with having to remove stubs later, remove the stalks completely and accept fewer flowers on some varieties.

Methods of disbudding are shown below:



Bloom stalk completely removed.



Stub of bloom stalk removed left attached.

Always wait until the bloom stalk is about one-third inch long before removing. This makes it easier and only requires you to check your plant every ten days. The time to stop disbudding must be calculated.

On average, you stop disbudding variegated varieties about nine weeks before a show. Doubles are disbudded until eight weeks prior, semi-doubles seven weeks and singles six weeks. If you know a particular plant takes a certain time to flower fully, you use that time as your guide. Mark these dates on your calendar and remove all bloom stalks which are **longer than one-fifth of an inch** until the marked date.

Remember to remove all the stubs left in the leaf axils about two weeks before the show.

Miniatures

Some people do not disbud miniatures. I find, however, that the newer varieties of miniature violets benefit from disbudding. To avoid a row of smaller leaves developing, it is best to disbud.

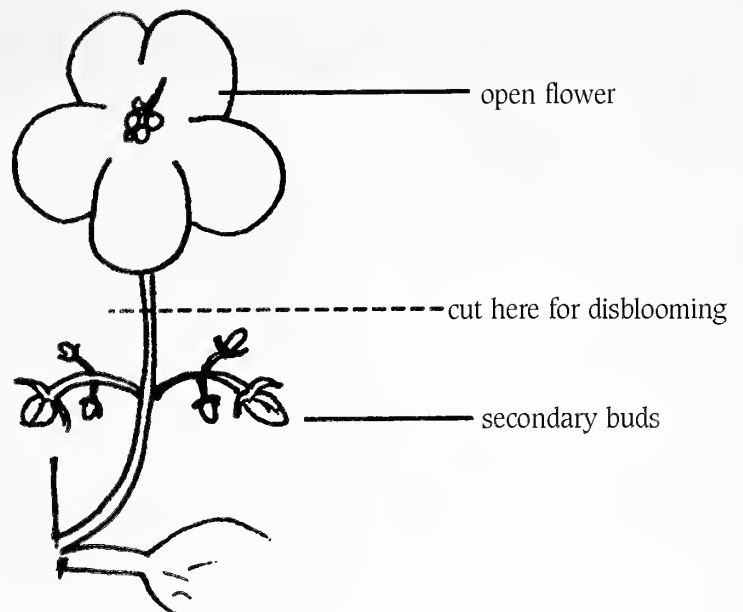
Some points to keep in mind about flower removal after blooms appear:

Sometimes we disbud our plants, but on show day some flowers are faded or dead and we may damage fresh blooms

in our efforts to remove them. If we practice disblooming, we can avoid this. Also, disblooming helps the blossoms on our plant to be all the same size. When judging African violets, five points are lost if flowers are not uniform in size.

Disblooming means removing the blossoms that have opened too early for the show. If you cannot ascertain how long a blossom lasts on your show plant, follow this rule of thumb. Remove all blooms which are fully open up to fifteen days before the show. If you don't know how long the flowers of a particular variety last, let one develop until it fades and record the time. You may prefer to do this on a second plant of the same variety as your show plant.

Disbloom by cutting the pedicel (the small stalk supporting each individual flower) as shown below. You will usually find only the first flower to open is removed and this allows the other flowers to develop to the same size. Often, the first flower of a cluster uses all the plant energy causing the later blooms to be smaller, penalizing the plant in a show.



From the *Newsletter* of the Early Morn AV Group, Australia



JIFFY POTS

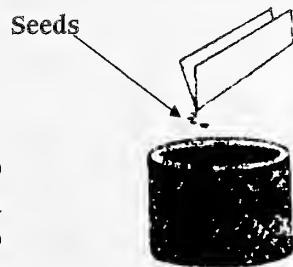
by Marge Huntley

Jiffy pots are pellets of compressed peat contained in fine fabric. To use, they are soaked in boiling water for about ten minutes. The fine mesh cover does not quite cover the top so it needs to be gently peeled back to expose the sowing surface.



Unsoaked peat pot

Either leave the mesh to make a neat little fence around the seedbed, or if it stands up too far, it can be trimmed off with scissors.



Soaked peat pot

Sow seed on to the damp pellet sparingly.

I sometimes spray the surface very carefully to help push the seed into the peat a little. A hard spray would wash the seed away, so be gentle. I place the pellet on a tray or saucer and cover it with a clear plastic tumbler (bought in 50's at supermarket). The variety details may be written on the base of the tumbler or on a tiny label made and inserted between the peat and the mesh. Water from the bottom and occasionally spray. When seedlings appear, water with well diluted nitrogenous fertilizer. Some seeds will germinate in a week while others could take months.

From *African Violets for the Hobby Grower* - written and compiled by the Early Morn African Violet Group, Inc.

AVSA ADVERTISING GUIDELINES

Judith M. Carter, Advertising Manager

AFRICAN VIOLET MAGAZINE

Advertising Rates, Mechanicals & Deadlines

Deadlines

Jan/Feb issue	Nov 1st	Jul/Aug issue	May 1st
Mar/Apr issue	Jan 1st	Sep/Oct issue	Jul 1st
May/June issue	Mar 1st	Nov/Dec issue	Sep 1st

Mechanicals & Rates: One Column (3-5/16") Two Column (6-3/4")

REGULAR ADVERTISING

AD SIZE - 3 5/16 IN WIDE	COMMERCIAL MEMBERS	ALL OTHERS
1 INCH	\$30	\$33
2 INCH	\$50	\$55
3 INCH	\$70	\$77
4 INCH	\$90	\$99
5 INCH TO 9 1/4 INCH	\$22.40 PER IN.	\$25.00 PER IN.
1/4 PAGE BLACK & WHITE	\$95	\$104.50
1/2 PAGE BLACK & WHITE	\$175	\$192.50
FULL PAGE BLACK & WHITE	\$345	\$379.50
1/2 PAGE COLOR	\$475	\$522.50
FULL PAGE COLOR	\$595	\$654.50

Advertiser provides color separations.

Special – Buy five ads and receive the sixth ad free when all 6 ads are paid in full in advance. All ads should be same size. Content of ad can change for each issue.

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15 word/\$15.00 Minimum. Each additional word \$1; series of numbers count as a word. Purchase 5 ads and receive the 6th ad free. All classified ads must be same text and paid for in advance. NO PROOF SUBMITTED BEFORE PUBLICATION. **Deadlines will be the same as those listed for the regular advertising section.**

INTERNET WEB PAGE

Any current advertiser or commercial member in good standing may have his/her business listed on the AVSA Web Page Vendor List and also may have a "hot" link to his page if he provides a reciprocal link to the AVSA page. No process has yet been developed to place advertising on the Internet at this time.

Checks made payable to The AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, Inc. (AVSA) must accompany ad copy. Agency commission and cash discount not allowed. Inquiries for color ads - contact Advertising Manager. You need not be an AVSA member to advertise.

Commercial Membership - \$37.00 per year (USA) \$38.75 per year (International). Make check payable to AVSA. Membership check should be provided separately from advertising cost. Pictures can be included at no extra cost. No copy or pictures can be returned. All copy must be typewritten. NO PROOF SUBMITTED BEFORE PUBLICATION. If proof required submit camera-ready copy.

VISA or MasterCard

AVSA accepts VISA or MasterCard for payment of ads that appear in the AVM. Want to save money? Prepay for five consecutive ads either by check or charge, and receive the sixth ad free. Advertising copy may be changed in this category.

Commercial versus Non-Commercial

Advertisers no longer need to be commercial or non-commercial members of AVSA in order to place an ad. The product or service must be plant-related to qualify. This rule is perfect for an advertiser who would like to "test the waters" before going into a full-scale advertising campaign. Prices for non-commercial advertisers are 10% higher than those for our commercial membership. Unless the advertiser is already a member of AVSA, he/she would not receive a copy of the AVM nor be eligible for any of the other benefits of membership in AVSA.

Example:

1" ad Commercial Member	\$30.00
1" ad Non-Commercial	\$33.00

One year (six issues) of non-commercial ads will cost an additional \$15.00 for ads.

Full page Black & White for Commercial Member	\$345.00
Full page Black & White for Non-Commercial Member	\$379.50

One year (six issues) of non-commercial ads will cost an additional \$172.50 for ads.

Four-Color Advertising

The AVM is now accepting four-color ads. Ads will be accepted in two sizes.

One Half Page	Commercial Member	\$475.00
	Non-Commercial	\$522.50
Full Page	Commercial Member	\$595.00
	Non-Commercial	\$654.50

The customer must provide the color separations for the copy.

Classified Advertising

- Looking for a home for your old copies of the AVM?
- Moving and don't have room for that plant stand?
- Your club is selling violet key rings as a fundraiser?
- Small commercial grower: Violet lovers travel everywhere to find new plants. Do you go unnoticed and lose business because you feel you can't afford a large ad in the AVM?
- Large commercial grower: Even though you would like to see your ad in every issue, do you settle for fewer appearances?

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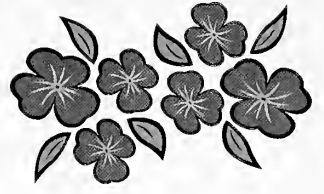
Please leave a phone number where you may be reached.



Putting Down a Leaf

by Elmer Godeny

From AVSA's Web Site *Frequently Asked Questions*



It is better to root leaves in a potting mix rather than in water. In the long run, it takes less time to root in a medium because the water roots are not sufficient for absorbing nutrients from the soil once the plant is potted.

First, choose a good leaf to root. Do not take outer leaves that have begun to turn yellow; they are too old and will not produce strong offspring. Remove the leaf from the plant. Sometimes, I will place the end of the leaf stem in water containing Superthrive (plant vitamins) for a few hours prior to putting it down, but this is not a necessary step.

You will need to prepare a container for the leaf; some people use plant pots and place them in a sealed plastic bag. This allows humidity to build up and prevents the potting mix from drying out. Place some potting medium in the container. I use my African violet potting mix with a layer of vermiculite on top to prevent contact between the leaf and the soil; however, many people propagate leaves in a (1:1) mixture of vermiculite and perlite. Cut the leaf stem at a 45 degree angle (from top to bottom) about 3/4 to 1 inch from the base of the leaf. Stick the cut leaf stem surface into the planting mix, making sure that the cut surface is covered with medium.

I also prop the leaf up on a 1 inch X 1 inch styrofoam wedge (cut from a plate or cup) to prevent the leaf from sitting on the surface of the potting mix. Add some water to your mix so that the medium is damp but not soaking wet. Cover the container and place in a well-lit place (on a light stand) or wherever you grow your African violets.

In four to six weeks, you should notice plantlets breaking through the surface of the planting mix. It may take longer in colder months and shorter in warmer months.

NOTES: (1) I use a clear plastic take-out salad container to propagate leaves because it has a snap on lid and you can see the roots forming in the soil. (2) The larger the cut surface on the stem, the more plants that may come up off the leaf. (3) The deeper the cut surface is planted into the mix, the longer the plantlets will take to break through the surface. (4) Do not overwater as excess moisture will cause the leaf to rot. (5) If the leaf is too big to fit in the container or roots form on the leaf stem, the leaf gets bigger, but new plantlets are not observed, the leaf can be cut in half and the end of the leaf blade discarded. This will force the leaf to put up new plantlets.

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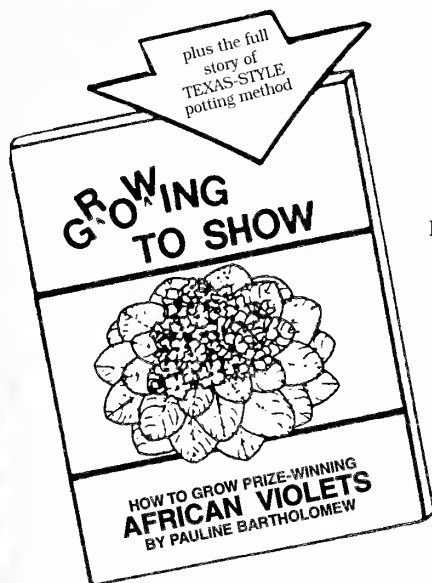
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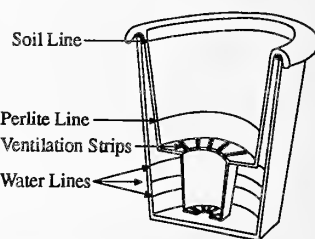
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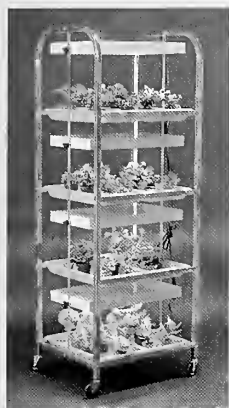
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